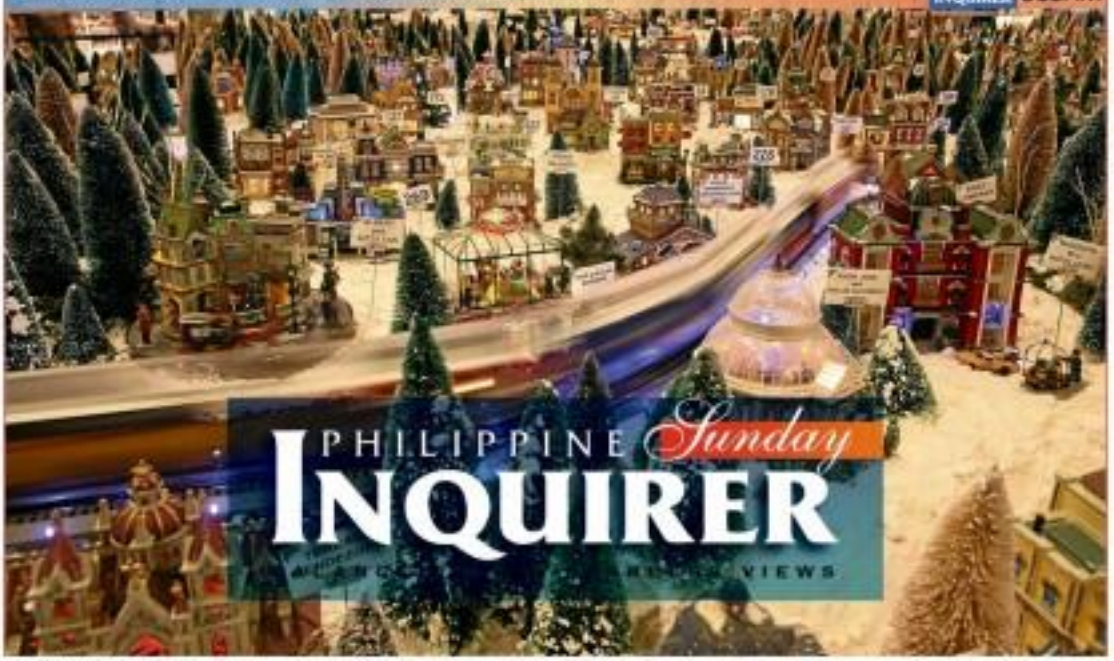
Sunday, December 4, 2011 ★★ 32 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 359 P20 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON/OFF/HELP to 4467

RADYO INQUIRER 990AM



PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE A miniature Christmas-themed village measuring 10 sq.m is attracting mall-goers at SM City in Cebu City. The mini village consists of a thousand trees, 700 table accents, 355 houses and six sets of trains from the collection of Cebu couple Joji and Gloyzie Tagaoca. The exhibit aims to raise funds for the benefit of Kythe Foundation which helps children with cancer. (See story on Page D1.) JOVEN L. SANTIAGO

MVP pins down Ongpin

Affidavit backs allegations of insider trading

LITTLE-KNOWN Filipino genius Epifanio delos Santos and the famous thoroughfare (circa 1937) named after him.

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GRAND inquisitor believes he has the smoking gun.

According to Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, he has obtained an affidavit from businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan that will nail the "insider trading" case that he has been building against Southeraman Roberto "Bobby" Ongpin, whom he accuses of buying the Philex Mining Corp. (Philex) shares of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) with P518 million in alleged "bailout" loans from the DBP itself.

Ongpin is also accused of allegedly using insider information to corner the market on Philex shares—including those issued by the DBP—which he immediately turned around and sold to Pangilinan at a hefty profit.

Osmeña, who chairs the Senate committee on banks that is conducting the investigation into the alleged financial chicanery, said the Pangilinan affidavit pointed to a case of insider trading in relation to another transaction that Ongpin had

MVP PINS DOWN, A10

Preposterous, Ongpin says of Osmeña claim / A10

New twist for Erap's memoirs: Poetic justice

By Veh Contreras

THE LONG-PLANNED memoir of deposed President Joseph Estrada will apparently end with a twist, a reversal of roles, an ironic denouement no different from the way the former actor tailored his old action flicks.

In final chapter, if it were to be written now, could even have a cinematic title: "Poetic Justice," which sounds like a revenge thriller, or perhaps the more melodramatic "Hindi Natutulog Ang Diyos (God Never Sleeps)."

These were the phrases the 74-year-old Estrada actually used to sum up how he viewed

NEW TWIST, A13

Edsa: Greatest Filipino genius after Rizal

By Art Villasanta
Contributor

IF IT WERE NOT for the unbending determination of Filipino intellectuals in 1958, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (or Edsa) might well have been named "Avenida 19 de Junio."

Or "President Ramon Magsaysay Avenue." Or "Gen. Douglas MacArthur Highway." And if Edsa were not named Edsa, what would we have called the People Power Revolution of 1986?

But who is Epifanio de los Santos, anyway?

Despite his obscurity today, De los Santos (or "Don Panyong") was regarded by some of his peers as the greatest Filipino genius after national hero Jose Rizal. Noted historian Gregorio Zaide described him as a rare genius because of his encyclopedic knowledge and talents.

Indeed, the words "polymath" or "uni-

EDSA, A-16

Journey between loss and forever

By Cathy S. Babao-Gabalfo
Contributor

DEC. 2, 2007, began like any ordinary day in the Carlos and De Leonardo households. Mikey de Leonardo and Jore Carlos, both 18, had once been batchmates in 10-year-old boys at the Ateneo de Manila. But their paths had diverged.

In 2007, Jore was a freshman college student in Ateneo while Mikey was studying at the University of Asia and the Pacific. Their parents, Pepe and Rachel Carlos and Albert and Jo Ann de Leonardo, had never met.

JOURNEY, A27

Star wars in cyberspace get ugly

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment
and Allan Policarpio, Contributor

STAR WARS have reached cyberspace, and it's not pretty.

A video diary that went viral on Friday shows sleepy-eyed TV host Ms Suarez curiously ladies' man, in tears because he says his former girlfriend, actress Rhian Ramos, had an abortion.

STAR, A11

'Hostage' baby is finally home

By Santiago R. Alvarezo

A LOT OF prayers must have gone out for Baby John Aron Charles Angeles to be finally reunited with his family this Christmas.

After her newborn was virtually held hostage in a hospital for four months because she was unable to pay the medical bills, Eleanor Escorpe has all the time in the world now to hug, kiss and care for her son.

HOSTAGE, A17

WHAT'S INSIDE

GLOBAL PINOY • **God's** Trouble Shooter **NEWS** • **All set** for GMA transfer to Veterans • **It's been** a great run for the Azkals **TALK OF THE TOWN** • **Where** should GMA be detained? **ACROSS** • **2 Army** officers held for kidnapping **METRO** • **Lead-free** paint for city playgrounds **SPORTS** • **PH** football books mainstream ticket **LIFESTYLE** • **My recipe** for graceful aging

WEATHER FORECAST

NEWSPAPER

Second FRONTPAGE

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All is set for GMA move to VMMC

By Julie M. Aurelio and Nancy C. Carvajal

SECURITY was jacked up yesterday at Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City, with the presidential suite declared off-limits to unauthorized persons although Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not yet detained there.

The reason for declaring the suite a protected area, even if it is detached from the main hospital, is to allow the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) to conduct "precautionary" or a direct "frisking, supposedly on the QCPD's own Explosives and Ordnance Division.

The restrictions began only yesterday morning, with police men setting up a makeshift camp at the parking area near the presidential suite and security guards blocking the walkway leading to it.

This is because security has been "officially turned over" to the QCPD, Aller said. He said that "personal" beds were installed to allow relatives to various control points in the hospital compound, and that these control points would be manned by policemen around the clock.

After the handing, the matter of providing security will be turned over to the security group of Arroyo.

Supt. Joselito Mukdon, who heads the Masambong police station which has jurisdiction over VMMC.

Mukdon said the QCPD was ready for Arroyo's transfer from St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City to VMMC anytime, even in the case of an airlift.

He said a "skeletal police force" had been deployed to secure the compound, and that more policemen would be brought in during the actual transfer.

She's packing

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Topacio also said Arroyo's camp would make that she be allowed access to the Internet and cellphones during her stay in the state hospital.

He said that as a lawmaker, Arroyo had to maintain communications with her constituents and colleagues.

"Depriving her of communication is a curtailment of freedom of expression and another violation of her constitutional rights," Topacio said.

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But according to President Aquino's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte, certain privileges, such as access to a mobile phone or a laptop connected to the Internet, are curtailed when one becomes a "detention prisoner" like Arroyo.

"This is an ordinary rule. Where you become a detention prisoner, this means, if you can call it that, or history is probable, Valte said yesterday over radio dzRB. "Those things are banned in jails."

House arrest

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"We all know how much wealth they have. If the government is really determined to see to it rich person accused of a crime, can it give [the same] to the poor who are dying from lack of medical assistance?" De Jesus said in an interview at the Sta. Teresa ng mga Bojuist in Quezon City. With reports from *J.Bargarin and Norman Bordadora*

De Lima defends move before int'l law experts

By Jeremie Reing

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima defended before international lawyers the government's controversial decision to extradite Philippine Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from fleeing the country last month despite an order by the Supreme Court allowing her to do so.

Speaking during Friday's National Capital Region Police Office's Regional Public Safety Battalion conducted the passing, supported by the QCPD's new Explosives and Ordnance Division.

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MUTYA International Nicole Marie Hardman (center), Mutya Teenage Felicia Barron (left), Mutya Overseas Communities Bea Santiago (right), 1st runner-up Olivia Sunshine Rodriguez (not in the left) and 2nd runner-up Elissa Alexandra Grimm display their crowns after their coronation yesterday in San Juan City. STORY ON PAGE

Eurasians, Fil-Ams dominate Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant

By Arnee Adica

EURASIAN and Filipino-American contestants dominated the 2011 Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant which culminated early Saturday morning at The Arena in San Juan City.

British-Filipino Nicole Marie Hardman became the second consecutive Mutya ng Pilipinas-International while Filipino-American Felicia Barron won the Mutya ng Filipinas-Teenage title.

Germany Filipino Elissa Sunshine Rodriguez of Puerto Princesa was crowned her runner-up, while Filipino-American Elissa Alexandra Grimm finished as second runner-up.

The only one to the winning circle who was not of mixed race was Bea Santiago, who represented the Filipino community in Canada. She was proclaimed Mutya ng Filipinas-Overseas Communities, a title reserved for overseas-based bets.

Seven overseas Filipino communities sent representatives to the country's national competition.

Hardman, 20, was on early favorite, topping the list of eight of special awards—Mutya ng Sheridan Beach Resort, Mutya ng Zee Interiors, Best in Swimsuit, Miss Hugo Clothing or Best in Casual Wear, and Mutya ng Bohol Bay Bottled Water.

Hardman, a one-year old Fashionista was also proclaimed Mutya ng Puerto Princesa Underground River and Mutya ng Ever Bilena.

Community service

During the question-and-answer portion, Hardman, an Interdisciplinary Studies major at the University of Saint La Salle in Bacolod, said she could use her beauty for community service by "doing projects toward helping organizations, having self-commitment and doing social responsibility."

Rodriguez and Barron took home a P200,000 cash prize each and girls from the pageant's sponsors. Santiago pocketed a P100,000 cash prize and gifts.

Rodriguez, a veteran of local beauty pageants, told the interviewer that Mutya was "really difficult compared to the other pageants that I joined."

She said she did not expect to win. "I felt my answers weren't that good," she confessed, adding that she thought Santiago had it in the bag because "I liked her poise, witty and casual."

Santiago, who was also proclaimed Best in Long Gown, is a professional model. She had been signed up by both Ever and Bead, two of the biggest modeling agencies in the world.

Her daughter has represented on the runway, hastings said she was a pageant aspirant. "I've been expecting her decision to join pageants for three years now," she told the Inquirer.

Her mother convinced her to give Mutya a shot, first on the condition that she would not have any preparations whatsoever. I'm just here to experience everything."

She thought the crown would go to Maria Bergmann, from the Filipino community in Norway. "She's amazing. She's beautiful inside and out," Santiago said of the Filipino-Norwegian beauty.

Bergmann was one of the 10 semifinalists and was also proclaimed Mutya ng Camera Club of the Philippines.

After the pageant, Santiago plans to visit her parents' families in Manitoba and in Brazil. She also looks forward to reopening food at Jollibee which "I haven't done in five years."

Santiago moved to Canada with her family six years ago when her maternal grandmother re-passed away.

The Mutya winners will be sent to various international competitions—Miss Timeless International, Miss Intercontinental, Miss Asia Pacific and Miss Tourism Queen of the Year pageants.

We'll be checking Arroyo's food in light of plot—Topacio

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A LAWYER of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said her camp would be checking out the food being served to the Pampanga congressman in the St. Luke's Medical Center as the alleged assassination plot against her may erupt and be carried out there.

"The information that she will be poisoned came from an official of a law enforcement unit who is still active and has access to this kind of information," said lawyer Ferdinand Topacio.

Asked if Arroyo's security head or doctor had been receiving such information, he said: "We never thought of that possibility, but we will look into the food served to her."

He said that they received such information seriously.

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P-Noy told: Focus on economy, not GMA

PRESIDENT Aquino should focus more on saving the down-to-earth economic challenges he is engaging in from being by maligning former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and some members of the Supreme Court, House Minority Leader Edcel Lagman said yesterday.

"Rather than Supreme Court, a judicial tribunal, see Arroyo, who had down strong economic fundamentals for the country, is the culprit in our current economic woes," Lagman said.

"Only the Aquino administration can be blamed for the dismal economic performance because it has prioritized partisan vendetta over sound economic policies," he said.

Lagman said Mr. Aquino accused the time of members of the Makati Business Club during its 30th anniversary when he failed to endorse his immediate economic agenda to "accelerate the economy by "tsunami" 7.2 percent growth rate in the third quarter.

In that meeting, Lagman said, the President merely spoke about Arroyo and condemned some members of the high tribunal for acting swiftly on her motion for a temporary restraining order.

Lagman said that even on record citizens expressed disgust over the President's poor performance in the economic sector on Internet social networking sites.

Lagman reminded Mr. Aquino that in the final tallies of nationwide issues, the Supreme Court would always act with judicious dispatch when civil liberties, like the right to travel and the issue of due process, were curtailed by the executive branch.

Vice-Presidential and regarding to the blame game are the traditionally of poor governance and are convenient smokescreens for lackadaisical performance," he said.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño said that Arroyo was getting special treatment from the Aquino administration which she did not deserve, considering the many sins of her administration. *Cynthia D. Balana*

TELECOM AWARDS. Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel Sun Cellular) bagged the Philippine Telecom Service Provider of the Year and the Philippine Mobile Service Provider of the Year awards at the 2011 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific Best Practices Awards recently held in Singapore. The awards are presented to companies that show best practices and outstanding performance in areas such as regional leadership, innovation and business strategies. Digitel and Sun Cellular are under part of the PLDT Group. Sun Cellular's Charles B. Lee (right) receives the award from Nikki Khan of Frost & Sullivan.

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Or the new Wine Room at Bacchus Épicerie."

Alex and Clifford Lichaytoo

The new Wine Room is a huge library of some of the best labels of wine in a temperature-controlled room. It is located at the Bacchus Épicerie of Rockwell. Do drop by early. You will want to stay for hours.

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Kids with cancer, others in need get Pagcor aid

By Nancy Carvajal

"HOW BIG child will die because he slept in the park after undergoing chemotherapy."

This was the message made by Nepal and Sigrid Flores, founders of Project Smile Kids, one of the beneficiaries of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s (Pagcor) "25 Days of Christmas, 25 Years of Pagcor" program.

"Our last mission out by end this is the first big donation that our foundation has received and we intend to put up a halfway home for child cancer victims from the provinces who have no place to stay in Manila after undergoing chemotherapy sessions" the Flores couple told the locators on the sidelines last Monday's launch of Pagcor's gift-giving project in Quezon City.

The couple said a halfway house was the last thing God came to mind as one of their projects to be funded by the Pagcor donation.

"We do not want a repeat of the death of a boy who had leukemia and had just undergone a chemotherapy session and died because he was forced to sleep in Luneta for a lack of money to pay for an overnight room," said the couple, who founded the foundation to help other parents with a cancer-stricken child like themselves.

Pagcor spokesperson Shiela Bandoza said that apart from the Jesus Gift beneficiaries, 10 other institutions were selected to receive an allocation from the P25-million budget for the gaming company's gift-giving program.

"The recipients foundations and institutions were chosen according to their needs and meet the requirements set up by committee in line with the administration's 'removal to clear principle'" Bandoza said.

In a statement, Pagcor Chair Cristino Reynaldo Jr. said: "Instead of Pagcor spending lavishly for its silver anniversary, we agreed to hold the biggest Pamaskong Handog project to share our blessings with the poor, the needy and neglected sectors of our society."

Reynaldo said he hoped that with this project they could serve as an example to other government agencies.

"The idea of our Pamaskong Handog project is to give help where it is most needed. While what we are giving this Christmas season may not be enough to help everybody, we want to lead the way in helping the neglected sectors of the society," he said.

The project, which started on Dec. 25 and will last until Dec. 15, covers more than 7,000 beneficiaries mostly from the neglected sectors of society and its charitable institutions nationwide.

"It is Pagcor's way of sharing its blessings with the needy on its 25th year," Bandoza said.

Among the beneficiaries, Bandoza said, are children and adult cancer patients, the blind and visually impaired, abused children and women, juvenile delinquents, elderly and family-less, crippled, disabled children, drug, wounded soldiers and policemen, street children, street families and physically challenged children.

Bandoza added that starting this year, Pagcor will also begin its gift-giving projects overseas.

Particularly in cities where there are Pagcor casinos, like Angeles, Bacolod, Davao, Cebu, Olongapo and Tagaytay.

Among the recipient-organizations were Bantay Children Inc., Philippine Army General Hospital and the Philippine National Police Hospital.

Tutors hope for early bonus

By Tara Quimosing

PUBLIC panelist for the bonus, the teachers' group Teachers Dignity Coalition (TDC) said it hoped the government would deviate from tradition and release their P10,000 Christmas incentive on time this year.

TDC chair Benjo Basas said the teachers are also counting on the timely release of the unused Overseas bonus, noting that the productivity enhancement incentive (PEI) was "traditionally delayed."

"My expert this PEI to be released to our respective schools as soon. We just hope that it will be given at least before the Christmas vacation," Basas said.

"Most of the time, teachers receive their Christmas bonuses after Christmas or even after the New Year's celebration, which practically defeats the purpose of this incentive," he said.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) announced earlier that teachers and other government employees would receive a P10,000 Christmas bonus, a "presidential prerogative." But has been contested since the time of former President Fidel Ramos, the TDC said.

He noted that, unlike in previous years, the DBM would be sourcing the bonus from a single fund. Previously, the government agencies used their savings in order to give their share of bonuses to their personnel. This, he said, had resulted in disparity because some agencies did not have enough savings to fund the agencies' P10,000 share of the bonus.

MiPOW
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MiPow, pronounced as MiPow (as in power), is designed to give your gadgets the power it needs to keep on going, even when you're on the go. MiPow fuses the elements of style, fashion, elegance & technology.
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iPod iPhone iPod
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switch

iFurniture

Amnesty Int'l pleads with China for Pinoy's life

By TJ Burgonio

AMNESTY International (AI) has joined calls for China to stop the execution of a Filipino convicted of drug trafficking, and to strike "unlawful officials" from the crimes punishable by death.

"We express serious concern that China scheduled another execution of a person convicted of a nonlethal crime such as drug trafficking which contravenes international law," AI Philippines director Aurora Parong said, calling on China to stop the execution.

The Supreme People's Court in Beijing recently upheld the death penalty on a 35-year-old Filipino caught smuggling 1.3 kilograms of heroin in the airport in Guangzhou in September 2008. The drug convict, who had flown to China from Malaysia, is scheduled to be executed on Dec. 8.

President Aquino has appealed to China for the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment.

The Chinese government, however, has said the decision was "final and executory." Beijing also said it was unable to arrange the requested visit by Vice President Jejomar Binay to personally carry Mr. Aquino's letter appealing for clemency on behalf of the Filipino convict's family.

Beijing, however, said it was willing to send family members who may wish to visit the convict before the execution.

Al Philippines recalled that China, reinstated Gwen Pilipino convicted of drug smuggling to death this year. "We call on the authorities in China to stop the executions and remove nonlethal offenses from the list of crimes that merit the death sentence," Parong said.

The executed Filipino was identified as Ramon Credo, Sally Dellosantos Villanueva and Elmo. both female, two common death sentence have escaped the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to withhold his name.

According to AI, China has 55 offenses that carry the death penalty but the exact number of executions remains unknown. The United Nations General Assembly has endorsed resolutions which state that the scope of application of the death penalty should not go beyond intentional crimes with lethal consequences, AI said.

Appeal to other countries

Parong asked President Aquino to appeal to other states leaders to abolish the death penalty, which AI said was cruel and inhumane, and did not deter crime.

"We call on our government to apply strictest rules on drugs within the country and the airports and generate more decent jobs so that Filipinos will have options to earn income for their families. We call on President Aquino to convince leaders of neighboring countries, particularly in Asia, to take efforts towards the abolition of the death penalty—that will be a great legacy in human rights," she said.

Asian countries which impose the death penalty in law and practice include Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan, Vietnam and North Korea, according to AI.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the National Bureau of Investigation are launching a manhunt for 10 of the 20 reported Filipino drug courier syndicates at-large in China.

PDEA Director General Jose Gutierrez Jr. said the unidentified Filipino had named the executive allegedly belonging to an Abacan syndicate who introduced him to the smuggling trade.

"Our sources told us when the executioner was," Gutierrez told reporters on Saturday.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has released a statement saying "We respect Chinese law and the verdict of the (PC) on this case."

The DFA statement said Beijing had already informed the Philippine government that the verdict of the Supreme People's Court (SPC) was "final and executory."

The DFA has "also been informed that Beijing is unable to arrange the [proposed] visit of Vice President Jejomar Binay to China at this time," said Raul Hernandez, the DFA spokesperson.

Hernandez, however, said "we're still hoping that Vice President Binay will be allowed by the Chinese government to go to Beijing to personally hand the letter of appeal of President Aquino and to request for consideration of our entreaties on humanitarian and compassionate grounds."

Binay, meanwhile, said in a statement that he remained "optimistic."

Humanitarian grounds

"I feel that Beijing has not totally closed its door to my visit. As far as the judicial process is concerned, the decision is deemed final. What we are pursuing are appeal on humanitarian grounds and the passionate plea of the (convict's) family for compassion," he added.

According to Hernandez, the Chinese government had promised to do everything to assist the family of the convicted Philippine national," now jailed at the Guangzhou Detention House.

"Your family members [of the convict] are going to China. But no definite date yet for their departure," he said earlier in a text message to the bureau.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

DECEMBER 4 (Sunday)
Psalter Week 2
2nd Sunday of Advent
Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1st Reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

"Be comforted, my people,
be strengthened," says your God.
"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her guilt has been paid for,
that from the hand of Yahweh
she has received double punishment
for all her iniquity."
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way for Yahweh,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley will be raised up,
every mountain and hill be laid low.
The scorching sands shall become level
and the rugged places smooth.
The glory of Yahweh will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it,
for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken."
Up you go to the high mountains, messenger of Zion.
Lift up your voice with strength,
lift it up, have no fear.
Say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
Here comes your God with strength,
his strong arm rules for him;
here is his reward with him,
and here before him is his booty.
Like a shepherd he tends his flock:
he gathers the lambs in his arms,
he carries them in his bosom,
and gently leads those that are with young."

2nd Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14

Do not forget, brothers and sisters, that with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. The Lord does not delay in fulfilling his promise, though some speak of delay; rather he gives patient because he does not want anyone to perish, but that all may come to repentance. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief. Then the heavens will disappear with a great noise, the elements will melt away by fire, and the earth with all that is in it will be burned up.

Since everything is to be destroyed in this way, how holy and religious you must be! We must be, as you wait for the Day of God and long for its coming, when the heavens will disappear in fire and the elements melt away in the heat. We want here a new heavens and a new earth in which justice reigns, according to God's promise.

And so, my friends, as you wait for this to happen, do your best to live spotless, sinless lives; know that God may finally succeed in peace, without blemish or fault.

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

This is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet, "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way; he's the people in the wilderness calling to the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths."

So John began to baptize in the desert; he preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea used to call the people from the city of Jerusalem, and as they confessed their sins he baptized by him in the river Jordan.

John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather garment around his waist. His food was locusts and honey. He preached to the people saying, "After me one is coming who is more powerful than I am; I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Reflections:

Lord,
● Indeed, as you said in repentance of sin, arms that God may find you worthy to receive, without blemish or fault.

Reflection
● Make! What's the rush? The reason we all must not forget that it is the Lord who gives us gifts—peace, comfort, and strength!

Grant
● He has to have time to receive God's gifts graciously.

Amen
● Let us make time to be still and alert during these days so we're ready to receive the greatest gift of all!

Masses to be said for Pinoy

THE CATHOLIC Church will offer Masses on Sunday for a convicted Filipino drug trafficker facing execution in China.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in a statement said the Masses would mark "divine intervention" for the grant of the Philippine government's request that China's highest court commute the Filipino's sentence to life imprisonment.

It said Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, CBCP president, had directed all the dioceses to offer today's Masses for the intention of the Filipino convict scheduled to be executed on Dec. 8.

"We are united with our government leaders in the appeal to the Chinese government for a commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment. I have already given instructions to the bishops to ask their priests to offer prayers during masses tomorrow for the Filipino convict," the CBCP president said in a statement.

"We will include in the prayers of the faithful a positive reply from the Chinese government to the appeal of our government for the commutation of the death penalty," said Msgr. Joselito Asis, CBCP secretary general.

Asis said the movement was also in response to Vice President Jejomar Binay's request for prayers for the Filipino convict.

Jerome Aning

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Fight vs AIDS short by ₱16B, says DOH exec

THE PHILIPPINES is struggling to deal with a worsening HIV/AIDS problem, with far too little money being spent on reversing a steady rise in infection rates, health experts have warned.

The government will have to prioritize its funding to counter-act the most at-risk communities as it faces a budget shortfall of up to ₱16 billion over the next five years, Health Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag said.

"If we only have so much, we have to prioritize the scope of our interventions, channeling the target populations, choosing the specific areas," Tayag told Agence France-Presse.

"It is a race against time because the more cases there are, the more different kinds of financial support are needed in the long-run," he said.

The number of HIV/AIDS cases detected in the Philippines—which has a population of 94 million—is still relatively small with only 7,884 cases recorded since 1984.

But the country is one of only seven listed by Unaids (the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) to have suffered rising infection rates in 2010.

And more than 1,000 cases have already been reported in the first 10 months of this year, exceeding the 1,581 cases reported for all of 2010, according to government data.

Tayag said the government estimated it needed ₱31 billion to carry out HIV-prevention programs from 2012 to 2016.

The Department of Health, however, had only identified foreign and local sources for ₱15 billion, leaving a projected shortfall of ₱16 billion.

The funding crunch is expected to hit hardest after the current "retool" of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria runs out in November next year, said Maria Teresa Bautista, country director of Unaids.

Another round of aid pledges was originally scheduled for next year but has been put back to 2013 and any grant money would not be released until 2014 at the earliest, Bautista told AFP.

"The country needs to look at whether there is going to be a critical gap in the funding. It has to actually sit down and identify where the gap will be—in prevention or treatment?" she said.

The Global Fund, a UN-supported partnership of governments and private aid groups, had made up the bulk of the funding which goes to such as 80 percent of the country's HIV prevention and treatment programs, Bautista said.

Activist have accused the government of cutting its own funding for HIV programs and relying too much on international aid.

"There was a gradual decrease (in local funding) because of an over-reliance on external financing like the Global Fund," said Jonas Ungay, spokesperson for the Network to Stop AIDS in the Philippines, a coalition of health and activist groups.

Amid the budget concerns, Tayag said the Philippines may have to increase its spending mainly on the homosexual and bisexual community, because these were the groups in which contagious rates were rising significantly.

"There are two populations that are the drivers of the epidemic—men having sex with men and injecting drug users," said Tayag, who oversees government programs to fight infectious diseases.

At least 46 percent of infections recorded this year were from homosexual contact compared with 28 percent in 2006, according to the government data.

Officials say they were caught off guard by the rise in infections from homosexual contact when they had been mainly concentrating on female sex workers.

Injecting drug users were still a small proportion of the total but there had been a sharp rise from only eight cases detected in 2009 to 147 last year, and another 86 in the first 10 months of 2011.

Previously, HIV had been mainly spread through heterosexual contact. This had been curbed with many HIV prevention programs focusing on educating and testing female sex workers, according to Tayag.

AFP

Palace concerned over HIV/AIDS rise

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday expressed concern over the report that the Philippines was among seven countries that are seeing a surge in the number of HIV/AIDS cases.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said that Palace would ask the Department of Health (DOH) for an update on the government's efforts to control the rise in HIV/AIDS cases in the country.

Taking steps

"This is a point of concern for us but the DOH has already raised this in a previous discussion as we know the DOH is aware, the DOH is taking steps and taking immediate steps to reverse the rise," Valte said over state-run radio DZRB.

Valte made the remarks following a report published by epidemiologist Celia Flor Hofilena showing that the Philippines was among the countries with rising AIDS cases.

The others are Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Bangladesh and Armenia.

"We will wait for their update because the last time we called...it seems it was early this year—they had a program to arrest the increase of these cases. The includes an information campaign," Valte said.

"First of all, it is important for our countrymen to know and be aware of the disease, how it is transmitted and how this can be prevented," she said.

Human AIDS ribbon to form at UST

By Jerome Aning

A GIANT human "RED ribbon" will take shape in the University of Santo Tomas parade ground in Manila today as part of the observance of National AIDS on Sunday by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the Archdiocese of Manila.

Representatives of HIV-positive communities, families and civil society will form the AIDS ribbon at the UST grounds/stand at 7:30 a.m., according to a CBCP statement.

Manila auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, bishop-adviser of the Philippine Catholic Bishops Conference's Episcopal Commission on HIV/AIDS (CBCP-EPAHCAM), said the symbolic human AIDS ribbon aims to raise awareness to the circumstances of people living with HIV/AIDS (Persons Infected/Affected by Virus-Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

"Respecting the sacredness of life also means accepting without bias or fear who are already living with this virus. Their life too is valuable and sacred. They too deserve a dignified life with the help of all," he said.

The Philippines is one of seven countries in the world with steadily increasing cases of HIV/AIDS.

A total of 7,884 cases have been reported in the Philippines since 1984. Of these, 1,416 were registered from January to July. Experts say the alarming 20 percent of this year's HIV/AIDS cases belong to the 15-24 age group and 58 percent are from the National Capital Region.

Pabillo called on the youth and their families to support National AIDS Sunday by wearing red, which means the coverage to battle the stigma.

"National Aids Sunday aims to make all of us aware of the extreme importance of HIV/AIDS. This immense can only be averted if we appreciate the gift of life and love that the Lord gives to us and live respecting the sacredness of life and sex," said Pabillo, who is also the director of the CBCP National Secretariat for Social Action Justice and Peace.

He to attend the activity are members of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

The CBCP had earlier declared every first Sunday of December as National AIDS Sunday. The decision came with the release of the 2011 Pastoral Letter on AIDS entitled "Who is my neighbor?" which calls on every Catholic to reach out to members of families and society who may be at risk of the virus and offer them compassionate understanding and the support they need.

Red Cross sets Run for Humanity

THOUSANDS of volunteers are expected to form a sea of red as they run for humanity in the Philippine Red Cross' biggest running event in its 64 years of humanitarian service.

"Run for Humanity" led by Red Cross chief Richard J. Gordon will start at 7 a.m. today in Mowa Manila and in other key cities of the country.

There will be three race routes in the metropolis. The Manila route will start at the corner of Bonifacio Boulevard and Quirino Avenue in the cultural center of the Philippines complex.

The Makati route will start at Gil Puyat at Ayala corner Chino Roces Avenue and run in the CCP complex.

The Pasay route will start at Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard corner MIA Road and Andrew Avenue.

All runs in Metro Manila will converge at the SM Mall of Asia where a program led by Gordon and other personalities will be held. Prizes will be given in the National Capital Region chapter, school and barangay with the largest delegations.

Prizes also await the youngest and oldest runners and a raffle will also be held among the runners' members.

Gordon, who announced the run, said it is aimed at highlighting the basic role of volunteerism and in celebration of the United Nations' Declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Volunteers.

The run also hopes to create a cohort of volunteerists in the country and make the Philippine the volunteer capital of the world, he said. Jerome Aning

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QUILL FOR FIRST GEN'S PULSE

The Lopez-controlled First Gen Corporation received an award at Pearl Inc in internal magazine PULSE during the 2011 Philippine Quill Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The prestigious annual awarding ceremony is being held by the IABC to recognize outstanding corporate communications programs and work. The PULSE of First Gen (shown here at the Internal Publications Category) is under the Communications Shift Division of the 2011 Philippine Quill Awards. Launched only last year PULSE serves as First Gen communication tool for uniting company culture and values, celebrating company milestones and accomplishments, reinforcing a sense of pride among employees and for promoting a stronger bond among employees despite the geographical distance separating these employees. First Gen, the country's leading clean and renewable energy company, has plans to deliver Philippine gains in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Receiving the award on behalf of First Gen are (from left) corporate communications specialist Jose Santiago, assistant vice president and head of corporate communications Rizalia de la Paz, and senior manager for corporate communications Joel Gabonada.

QUILL FOR RIZAL@150

Receiving the Quill award at Pearl Inc the Rizal@150 Celebration is the recently conducted International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Gold Quill Awards are account managers Samantha Sanchez (2nd from left) and Diane Malaga (middle) with Managing Director Leah Carlucci (2nd from right) of Varsos-Bolk Public Relations. They are flanked by Berg Chua (extreme left) and Cesario Bautista of IABC Greater Bolk Public Relations and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), tasked to organize the country's appreciation of the national hero's life and works, forward strong and strategic partnerships by tapping some of the biggest and most influential organizations in the different industries from the media sector to the local government units. From non-government organizations to private institutions and businesses, that resulted in the year-long celebration of the national hero's birth.

Children of conflict find healing at Peace Camp

By TJ Burgonio

INSIDE THE canopy of towering trees, youngsters on Saturday morning sat in rapt attention as Gabriela party-list Rep. Emmi de Jesus read to them a book tugging children's story about war in Moldavia, its horrors and its unhappy consequences.

It was quiet until 11-year-old Roland raised up to say he could identify with the narrative, for family having been displaced by military operations in Talitod, Davao, said himself having witnessed a friend being struck with an invisible by a soldier.

"There are soldiers in our place and life is difficult. That story could fit into (grandmother), we've experienced that. In the place where we live, for the farm, many have died from bullets and hunger. I myself have experienced it. It's difficult when there is no rice. Some days we don't eat at a day," he said.

Yesterday's story-telling session grounds of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City was part of the "Peace Camp" organized by child rights advocacy groups for Roland and more than 20 other victims of human rights violations with the support of the European Union.

Aged 7 to 17, they come from different provinces, but there's a common thread in their profiles: they are children of victims of extrajudicial killings and the disappeared, or victims of displacement as an offshoot of military operations and encampment in schools and barangays.

The idea behind the Peace Camp is to provide psychosocial help for the children and empower them to cope with and rise above the trauma of their experiences.

"The basic idea is for them to express themselves, and to be listened to. At the same time, they'll discover that they have capacities, and that's an thing they could do to uphold their rights. They're not helpless. If you're a victim, you tend to feel some helpless," said Gleh Mercado, deputy executive director of the Children's Rehabilitation Center which organized the activity with Solidaridad Gilaknon for Children (Socorro) and Gabriela.

As within the day, the youngsters also had their faces painted by artists in a session meant to promote their wishes and dreams, joined "group games" that foster solidarity, and engaged in mural painting.

A booth was set up for each activity.

And of course, before and after the Peace Camp, the youngsters were subjected to debriefing.

The Peace Camp, which it so sought to highlight the rights of the children, came a week ahead before the second, by media International Human Rights Day.

As Emmi lent her real sound, whose human father was hacked to death on suspicion he was a communist rebel and brother who was shot to death allegedly by soldiers only this year somewhere in Mindanao, the Peace Camp was a refreshing diversion.

"It's my first time to come to Manila. I'm happy here," said the 12-year-old girl, who had her face painted with the word justice and the names of her slain father and brother, so she said it helped that she met and some new friends with other youngsters with a similar experience.

Rumors of the file back in her town where her family lives was a military camp. "They should leave our place so there won't be killings of civilians," she said.

De Jesus, a member of the party-list group pushing for women and children's rights, said the Peace Camp was a venue to tell the government's attention to the ex-

PLDT-Smart reaps 25 Quill awards

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and Smart Communications Inc. reaped a total of 25 awards at the second 30th Philippine Quill awarding ceremony organized by the International Association of Business Communicators Philippines.

Smart bagged 11 Merit Awards and eight Honor trophies, while its Communicators Inbound for All campaign, Rebellion / Call for Collaboration, and Text 2 Donate programs were recognized with the Philippine Quill's highest distinction, the Excellence Award, making it the "winningest" company of the night.

PLDT's 2010 Annual Report "Changing the Game" also won different awards in the communication creative category for publications, while its myDSL Internet Hunt won a Golden Quill award in the communication management category for event awards.

The Philippine Quill is the most prestigious and coveted award for business communicators. The awarding ceremony is held annually. It recognizes excellent communications programs, skills and creativity work managed by seasoned communication professionals in the industry.

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Ampatuans' try to retrieve funds foiled

By Cinelle Salzan
Senior Librarian
and DJ Yap in Manila

COTABATO CITY—A commotion erupted inside the Banco de Oro branch here yesterday morning after two lawyers representing the Ampatuan family raised an withdraw money from the bank accounts of their clients, but they were rebuffed by officials and police.

The incident took place a day after the expiration of the six-month freeze order issued by the Court of Appeals on the bank accounts and other assets of Andal Ampatuan Sr., Zaldy Ampatuan and other family members, who are the prime suspects in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre.

BDO manager Ramona Ramonan said they blocked the attempt by the lawyers to withdraw the funds from the accounts of the Ampatuan family because "we lacked authority to grant it."

Ramonan said they had to ask for police assistance when the lawyers insisted on withdrawing the money from the bank, which is located on Makakua Street here.

Supt. Emmy Beyong of the city office said they managed to convince the two lawyers, whose he declined to identify, to walk out of the bank after a 30-minute negotiation.

Freeze order expired

On Friday, the six-month freeze order of the Court of Appeals on the Ampatuan clan's bank accounts expired, prompting the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to file a civil forfeiture case against the Ampatuans and seek a new freeze order.

The Manila court issued a new freeze order on the Ampatuan accounts on Friday afternoon.

Among the assets covered by the freeze order were properties under Dual Grains and Commodities Trading, Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Banco de Oro, Unibank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI, Bataan Savings Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Coop Bank of Cotabato, EastWest Banking Corp., Philippine RBS Life Insurance Corp. and Pioneer Insurance.

To thwart future attempts by the Ampatuans clan to withdraw money from their frozen bank accounts, police officers have been deployed to the BDO branch.

Upon the request of the Department of Justice, Justice Secretary Jesus M. Bellosillo said he had ordered a police team deployed to the BDO branch in Gensboro City, where they would remain posted until further notice.

"There are no requests as to search as Cotabato but we are prepared to send police personnel if necessary," said Bellosillo, who oversees area supervisory powers over the Philippine National Police.

Unexplained wealth

The National Union of Journalist of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists (FFFJ) had earlier warned that the Ampatuans might try to regain control of their enormous unexplained wealth to put pressure on their trial for the Maguindanao massacres.

Several members of the Ampatuan clan are on trial for their alleged involvement in the massacre of 58 persons, including 32 journalists, on Nov. 23, 2009, in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao. The body of the reported 58th victim, photojournalist Reynaldo Momay, has yet to be recovered.

A lifestyle check conducted by the AMLC showed that Ampatuan clan members had engaged in financial transactions amounting to more than P1 billion from 2008 to 2009. It was also found that the deals were supported by spurious documents.

The AMLC also noted that the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) of model Sr., the clan's patriarch, did not include his vast properties worth P90-96 million.

According to the AMLC report, the clan patriarch owns 27 houses in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao, Cotabato City and Davao City. He also has 91 vehicles with an estimated value of P111.23 million registered under his name and his wife's, Bai Lailu.

Since 1997, every year on December 12, we honour the Queen of Heaven by celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, The Patroness of the Philippine Islands.

A Solemn High Mass will be held inside the Cayana Monastery Magallanes, Pampanga at 10:00 a.m.

Cayana
THE ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY

MILF on mission to find Kato's grave

By Edwin Fernandez, Hazel Mualam and Jodilyn Mabera
Inquirer Mindanao

UMBA KATO

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday said its ground forces in Maguindanao had begun looking for the burial site of Ameril Umra Kato amid denials of his reported death by his family and followers.

Sun Al Haq, spokesperson of the MILF, said the search for Kato's grave was being conducted with the joint participation of residents near areas suspected to be the renegade Moro leader's buried ground.

"We have experts who can identify if the grave buried in his," Al Haq said without elaborating.

He said the MILF wanted to just to rest the controversy brought about by Kato's "death" by finding his grave.

Rites, 'wedding'

"If that happens, Kato's men can no longer deny their leader had died," Al Haq said.

Abu Misri Mama, spokesperson of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the armed wing of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM) formed by Kato, admitted he had died soon Kato in a long time but maintained that their leader was alive.

Asked if he recently spoke with the BIFM leader, Mama said they were told not to phone Kato if they had things to clarify with him. the MILF-BIFF leaders closer to Kato had told him and other ranking members to "be very careful in dealing with the media."

"Some are still insist the media to come and see Kato," Mama said.

But he declined an Inquirer request to be allowed to take photos of his father.

The BIFF also continued to declare separate key operations in succession.

"Soon we will invite the media to come and see Kato," Mama said.

"He may not grant an interview but you will see for yourself that he is alive," he added.

Abinlawi explained that his father was much concerned about his security situation.

Kato has 52 arrest warrants against him issued by the courts, following a series of attacks in North Cotabato and Maguindanao towns in connection with the failed signing of a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain in 2008.

No reason to doubt report

Ghazlali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said they had no reason to doubt the report they got on Kato's attack.

"They just don't want to confirm it to prevent their most fierce military focus how man-hit," he said.

Jaafar said the naming of a caretaker leadership for the BIFM, the group that Kato founded after leaving the MILF last year, bolstered the claims of the MILF source.

Michael Mastura, MILF peace panel member, said Kato's first wife joined the report on Kato's death. He said the wife took care of the ailing Kato in Tofil, Davao City.

Jaafar said Kato's family and top BIFM commanders held on Thursday a big funeral in Camp Abubakar (formerly Camp Omar) in Maguindanao.

"They slaughtered two cows," Jaafar said.

A handful is a form of food offering held to times of bereavement or triumph among Moro Muslims.

Jaafar said the handfeast was held on Thursday as a seventh day offering for Kato's decease.

But Mama said Kato would have the media to date time to prove he is not dead.

He said they could not understand why the MILF was connecting stories about Kato's supposed death and unproved Jaafar of lying.

"The MILF conclusion: Kato has died," Jaafar maintained.

When informed that even Kato's son was denying the MILF claim, Jaafar said: "We have evidence but there is no need for us to show it."

Apparently irked, Jaafar added: "If you do not believe what we are saying, this will be the last interview we will grant on Kato."

You wouldn't want to be jailed in PH, US embassy tells nat'ls

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AMERICANS in the Philippines have been advised to keep their noses clean because the US government will not be able to help them if they are sentenced to prison.

"Be prepared to face the realities of what are by American standards inadequate facilities, poor food and a deficient sanitation in prisons," assured the US Embassy in Manila.

American nationals who happen to be "in detention after arrest or are already serving a prison term upon conviction" in the country basically provide the embassy with the names of family or friends for financial assistance to enable you to buy dietary supplements and basic necessities like soap and toothpaste," the embassy said in an "Emergency Services" advisory posted on its website.

According to the mission, "the consul can help you arrange for remittances to be sent so as to ensure that the money reaches you intact."

Still penalties

The embassy also warned that "issuance of the incidence of violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act of the Philippines, it is necessary that Americans facing drug charges understand that still penalties are meted out to offenders."

"It is not correct to assume—as many do—that the worst punishment an American can receive for such a violation is deportation. Offenders are generally arrested by operatives of the Philippine National Police (Philippines' anti-drug enforcement agency) and send general bail—which is not allowed in all cases—they remain in the custody and generally are confined to the rehabilitation center in Camp Bicutan in Taguig (City). In some drug cases where the amounts found is more than 40 grams bail may not be available," it said.

More severe

The embassy noted that "under the amended Dangerous Drugs Act, the penalty for the sale or possession of 750 grams or more of marijuana or marijuana resin or 200 grams or more of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) is death. The possession or use of prohibited drugs in the amount of 40 grams or more, such as opium, heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine, carries a penalty of reclusion perpetua to death plus remedies deportation after completion of the sentence."

"So, of now, there is a moratorium of undefined length on executions," the embassy noted.

It reminded US nationals that while in the Philippines, they are "subject to Philippine laws and especially those which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not provide the same protections available in the US."

"Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the US for similar offenses. Persons violating the law, even unknowingly, may be expelled, fined, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs in the Philippines are strict and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines," it said.

The mission also said the US government "cannot arrange for an American citizen to be released from jail or prison."

"U.S. citizenship does not confer anyone to special privileges in the Philippine legal system. The US embassy does not have the authority to intervene in the Philippine justice system and cannot act as a legal representative or provide legal advice to US citizens," it said.

Assistance assured

But the embassy made the assurance that the US Department of State is "committed to ensuring fair and humane treatment for American citizens imprisoned overseas."

"We assist incarcerated citizens and their families within the limits of our authority in accordance with international, U.S. and Philippine laws. We monitor conditions in foreign prisons and protest allegations of mistreatment of American prisoners. We work with prison officials to seek treatment consistent with internationally recognized standards of humane rights and due process."

"An embassy duty officer is always available for emergency assistance. The embassy's American Citizen Services Section is available to assist in difficulties relating to the arrest of an American citizen," it said.

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Preposterous, Ongpin says of Osmeña claim

By Dixie L. Lacsa

BLUEBLOOD: Roberto Ongpin yesterday described as "preposterous" then Sen. Sergio Osmeña's claim that Ongpin had engaged in "insider trading" when he accumulated 47 Philex Mining Corp. (Philex) shares and sold them to businessman Manuel Pangilinan, and that he (Osmeña) had the proof in an affidavit that Pangilinan had submitted.

"I have a copy of Mr. Pangilinan's affidavit and he doesn't say what Sonny (Osmeña) is saying," Ongpin said in a telephone interview from Hong Kong, where he was in transit en route to London.

He should publish Mr. Pangilinan's affidavit in full," Ongpin said.

According to Ongpin, his second (brokerage) trade of the Philippines' DBP) loan of P636 million was taken out on Nov. 3, 2009, to buy shares of Philex at P12.75 per share—the same price the stock was trading in the market that day.

He said the deal with Pangilinan was not firmed up until Dec. 2, 2009.

"To say that we knew it would go up to P21 per share at that point is preposterous," Ongpin said.

'Pangilinan contacted us'

The businessman said that contrary to what Osmeña claimed, it was Pangilinan who approached his nephew, Eric Recto, to acquire Ongpin's Philex shares, and not vice versa.

"It was not us who contacted Mr. Pangilinan. It was Mr. Pangilinan who contacted Eric (Recto)," he said.

Recto, he said, was asked to see the telecommunications system on Dec. 1, 2009, to discuss a possible deal, and it was not until the following day that the particulars of the transaction were firmed up.

Meanwhile, Reynaldo Isorena, the former DBP press attaché, said there was "no insider trading whatsoever" in his dealings with Ongpin with respect to the Philex shares.

He debunked Osmeña's claim that he and Ongpin had continued to trade shares of Philex even after a deal had been supposedly sealed between Ongpin and Pangilinan for the latter to acquire a majority stake in the mining giant.

"Whatever investment decisions we made [at DBP], we made based on publicly available information," he said.

"And it was clear from his pronouncements that (the Pangilinan) wanted to increase his stake," David said.

Words were twisted

David pointed out that the deal for the takeover of Philex was a transaction solely between Pangilinan and Ongpin.

"DBP was not even sure (if Philex) would ever be bought by Pangilinan, too. It was only later that our participation (in the transaction) was firmed up," he said.

The former DBP chief also pointed out that key Philex stock transactions made after the deal between Pangilinan and Ongpin was struck was between the latter and its wholly owned subsidiary, DBP Management Corp., in order to consolidate the ownership of shares into a single block.

"At the behest of the DBP then, it was my job to make sure that the bank got the best possible deal, based on what we knew then," David said.

Regarding Osmeña's claim that he had bragged to the bank's board members about the transaction, he had engineered, David said his words were twisted out of context.

"Those words were spoken long after the deal was done, and it was made during light banter and in jest. The Solid Bank members were asking me if they should buy Philex for themselves, and I replied, 'I'm available for consulting,'" he said.

"But in a concurrent, independent direction of Philex, I was very careful about revealing company issues to them," he said.

David, who has endured heated questioning from the senators for his role in approving the bank loans to Ongpin, said he has nothing to hide and was even made with the interest of the government financial institution in mind.

"What we had always done was to find transactions that would benefit the bank, and by extension, the government," he said.

MVP pins down Ongpin

From page A1

made in December 2009.

"[I will prove (Osmeña's) lending with conflict transaction Bobby (Ongpin middle-) on Dec. 2," Duque (in 6:42 Internet edition) said in a position at a recent dinner.

Insider trading is the trading of a corporation's stock or other securities by individuals with potential access to nonpublic information about the company.

'Tell the truth'

Osmeña said he got hold of the Pangilinan affidavit at the end of October, or some three weeks after the former president of the investigation into Ongpin's DBP loans and purchase of the bank's Philex shares in 2009.

He said more information, including the Pangilinan affidavit, will be made available in the next hearing, which has been set for Monday.

According to Osmeña, it was Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile who convinced Pangilinan to execute the affidavit to shed light on the questioned transaction.

He said Enrile did not force Pangilinan to testify against Ongpin, but simply to "tell the truth."

Enrile confirmed this but described the Pangilinan document as a "locked document with reconciliation."

Price agreed

Asked if the affidavit would prove Chief Dragonhead supposedly insider trading, Enrile smiled and said, "We have other evidence. I [account's discuss them]."

According to Osmeña, Pangilinan admitted in the affidavit that he and Ongpin had already agreed a price tussle which Ongpin would sell for 60 million Philex shares in late 2009. Ongpin earlier bought those shares from the DBP at P12.75 per share, using a second loan worth P636 million from the government bank. He had also taken out other loans of P260 million on her that year.

Ongpin sold the Philex shares he had bought from DBP along with other Philex shares he had acquired, to a block to the Pangilinan at P21 per share. The sale allowed Ongpin to gain control of Philex, the biggest gold and copper mining company in the country.

"So Pangilinan gave to the dam. He gave to the place and he gave us the price," Osmeña said.

Shangri-La meeting

According to Enrile, the Pangilinan affidavit said that Ongpin was initially asking for P27 per share before he and Pangilinan agreed on P21.

He said Pangilinan's lawyer even before Ongpin took out the second loan of P636 million from DBP in November 2009. "It was before the actual sale," Enrile said.

Still quoting from the Pangilinan affidavit, Osmeña said Ongpin's nephew and right-hand man, Eric Recto, had called to set Pangilinan sometime between Nov. 18 and Nov. 19 for a meeting that was "nothing extraordinary." The meeting took place at Shangri-La Hotel in Makati.

He said Pangilinan and the Ongpin group decided to talk up to Nov. 25 and by the end of the month, Nov. 27, a Friday, they had decided on a price of P22 per share.

"It only started when Eric Recto called him (Pangilinan) up (and said), 'We can we talk tomorrow about selling our block?'" Osmeña said.

Dazed hours?

Osmeña claimed that the then president of DBP Reynaldo David, leader of the supposed Ongpin-Pangilinan "operation" before the purchase actually took place.

David, who sat on the Philex board with Ongpin and Pangilinan at the time, denied that in previous Senate hearings.

ONGPIN

PANGILINAN

Osmeña said copies of the minutes of "several" board meetings would debunk David's denial.

"The minutes of the board meetings of the DBP kings (David). They discussed it (the price). He (David) even said, 'Yes, guys I line up. I'm ready for consulting.'

Osmeña: Pangilinan's admitting what he is supposed to have admitted to his affidavit. Osmeña said there was no need to comment him to the Senate hearings. He said the businessman did not necessarily implicate Ongpin because "he was (just) the buyer."

"He was the one who established the price. That's not insider trading because he did not gain from the information. As a matter of fact, he was the one who gave the information. It was the other guy who sold," the senator said.

As to why Pangilinan would appear to help the Ongpin's Philex shares at P21 each when they were acquired at only P12.75 per share, Osmeña said: "Every investor has a way of looking at things. Nobody can go to MVP. (He removes an) unnecessary."

"He's got a big cash flow coming from PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) shares of about P400 billion to P500 billion a year and he has to invest. And he knows he can hold it for 100 years. He's not under pressure to sell," Osmeña said.

Why not Lopez loans

Osmeña also denied that he was targeting Ongpin, while ignoring the fact that the DBP had to draw off P1.07 billion in loans that the ones bank had made to companies controlled by the Lopez family. Osmeña is married to a Lopez.

"I've never been asked to probe the Lopezes (but if asked,) I would probe the matter," he said.

"As a matter of fact, as I said, he accused of bias. I would be up vis-à-vis chairman (Jose Francisco) Sonny Lopez, the (Benedicto) cronies the probe," he said.

Osmeña said his committee began investigating the DBP loans extended to Ongpin because of a resolution filed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with the suicide of a DBP lawyer named Benjamin Palpin. It has been alleged that Palpin had been harassed by the now Aquino-appointed DBP board into executing an affidavit to say that David and other old DBP board had irregularly extended the loans to Ongpin.

The DBP's new board of directors has claimed that the loan to Ongpin was "bailout" because it was allegedly granted without "collateral" and without sufficient collateral cover.

It also accused David and the old DBP board of parking the bank at a dead cottage for the Philex shares that it had sold to Ongpin at P12.75 when Ongpin sold the same shares a few days later to Pangilinan at P21 per share.

After three hearings, the committee has barely tackled the matter of Ongpin's monitor-

Edsa: Greatest Filipino genius after Rizal

From page A1

ental genius" came to mind when one considers the his Senior achievements as a scholar, lawyer, historian, journalist, jurist, philosopher, bibliophile, biographer, philologist, patriot, poet, statesman, literary critic, politician, librarian, biographer, inventive and linguist (with an excellent command of Spanish, English, French and German, even his Tagalog and Bisaya), researcher and philanthropist.

He is regarded as the "first Filipino ambassador," and five scholars of his time would match his vast knowledge of the Philippines.

He died in 1928 at the age of 67 and was honored as the great among the great Filipino scholars."

Patriot and writer

Rizo is a wealthy family in Malolos on April 7, 1871. Dr. Jos Rizalino studied at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, where he acquired a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in March 1890. In 1891, he began studying jurisprudence at the Santo Tomas Law School and obtained his licentiate in law in 1898.

He was considered one of the best Filipino writers in Spanish, and was the first Filipino to become a member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Language (a position that was denied Rizal, [illegible] Spanish Royal Academy of Literature, and the Spanish Royal Academy of History in Madrid.

But despite his love for the Spanish language, he his fame, he was a fiery patriot who championed Philippine independence through numerous [illegible] He became secretary-editor of the influential revolutionary paper, La Independencia, in 1898, using the pen name E. Sabon.

He cofounded the patriotic newspapers La Liberacion and Diariomanila, La Democracia and La Patria. Among his famous polemical essays were titled "Filipinos y Filipinistas" and "Filipinos pour los Filipinos."

De los Santos also wrote numerous books in English. He was a member of an exclusive group of scholars called the Sanskrit Sanga Mauninggalag, which was founded by Felipe Calderon in 1906.

His peers in the circle of Tagalog poets were Cecilio de S. Santos, Iluis Serafin, Hermenigildo Cruz, Jaime de Veyra and Patricio Mariano.

First gov of Nueva Ecija

As a politician, De los Santos was a member of the Malolos Congress. He served as deputy attorney of Nueva Ecija, his father's province, and was its first governor in 1902—a post to which he was reelected in 1906.

After his term as governor, he was appointed provincial Fiscal of Tarlac and Bataan.

In 1907, he wrote an essay with the interesting title, "Paraiso de ternuras o las remembranzas" (Heaven's Land and its remedies for the Philippine insensible), [illegible]

In 1910, De los Santos was appointed historical director of the Philippine Census.

His last and most significant government position was as director of the Philippine Library and Museum, to which he was appointed in 1920.

By tradition, this prestigious post was reserved for Filipinos of learning and scholarship. As head of the museum, De los Santos built up its collection of [illegible] and other art forms so no one can fault his contributions to the [illegible] his predecessors.

He was still museum director when he died from a stroke in 1928.

Triumph for intellectuals

The cornerstone is on the fourth and fourth Circumferential Road that Commonwealth Ave. about Manuel L. Quezon considered as the Philippines' most beautiful highway began in 1938.

For reasons that remain unclear, however, the Americans resumed this road "Highway 54" after World War II.

In 1959, by virtue of Republic Act No. 2140, Highway 54 was renamed "Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa)," in recognition of Don Pancing's genius and contributions to the country's intellectual and artistic heritage.

But it was not the best-known Filipino whose name Edsa bears. There were three other formidable Filipinos—Bienvenido Avenida 19 de Junio" (in honor of Rizal's birthday), "President Ramon Magsaysay Avenue" (in memory of the beloved president who died in 1957) and "Gen. Douglas MacArthur Highway" (for the American officer who led US forces in liberating the Philippines from Imperial Japan in World War II).

Compared to those great men, De los Santos must be dizzy honor in the end.

Eulogio Rodriguez, who served as De los Santos' assistant at the Philippine Library and Museum, especially appreciated the many compliments of the name highway 54 in honor of the latter. (Rodriguez would later become Senate president.)

After Rodriguez's death, Ana Francisco Guanzon, who was De los Santos' classmate at the Santo Tomas Law School, took up the campaign.

Guanzon's lobbying and that of the Philippine Historical Committee, the Philippine Historical Association, the Philippine Library Association, the Association of University and College Professors, the Philippine National Historical Society and the Philippine-China Cultural Association won the day for Epifanio de los Santos Avenue.

It was a triumph for the Filipino intellectual.

The bill (R.A. 2140), enacted on April 7, 1959, partly states: "The name of Highway 54 in the Province of Rizal is changed to Epifanio de los Santos Avenue in honor of Don Epifanio de los Santos, a son of said province and the foremost Filipino scholar, jurist and historian of his time."

Historic highway

Edsa today is the Philippines' most historic highway. Its name is inextricably linked to the People Power Revolution that restored democracy in 1986 (at Edsa 1), and ousted then President Joseph Estrada in 2001 (at Edsa 2).

The most extraordinary highway in Metro Manila, it runs some 24 kilometers (or 15 miles) from Caloocan City in the north to Pasay City in the south.

Edsa is a 14-lane expressway that also encompasses the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 extending from Taft Avenue in the south to Monumento in the north by 2011. It forms the major portion of the circumferential Road 4 (C-4) in Metro Manila, which includes Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Quezon City and Valenzuela.

In August 2009, Sen. Manuel Roxas proposed that Edsa be renamed "Cory Aquino Avenue," in honor of the late president who led the struggle to oust the former Ferdinand Marcos and became the Philippines' first woman president.

According to Roxas, "it is but fitting to offer (at least) one way the road that is synonymous with the name of the world." But he subsequently withdrew his proposal without explanation.

Now we have a bill filed in the House of Representatives by Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay, Philippines, then again seeks to rename Edsa Cory Aquino Avenue.

Whether the measure will pass muster is unclear at this time. But it will do well for Filipinos to remember who Dr. Jose Rizal, and why naming Metro Manila's longest highway after his honors the Filipinos as an intellectual.

Editor's Note: The author is a regular contributor to the Inquirer and a historian of the Philippines during his career published in this newspaper's on above the #500 bill being a memorial to the Philippine revolutionary at that was the Korean War website at www.jaffyd.blogspot.com.]

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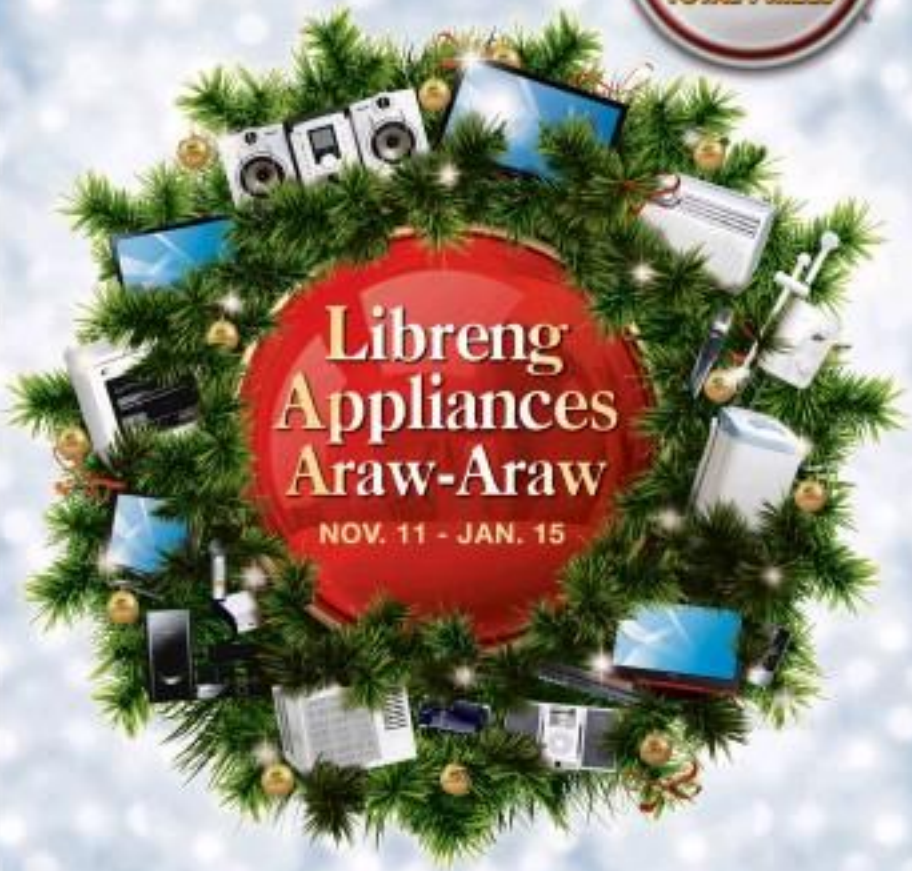

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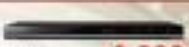

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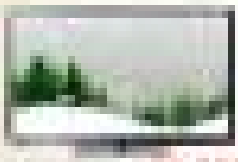

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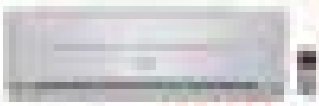

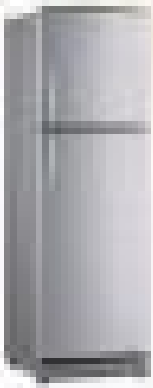

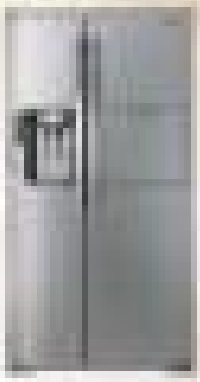

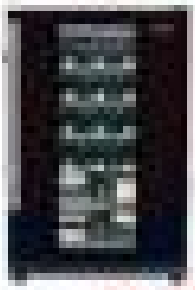

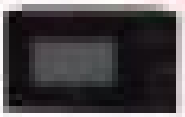

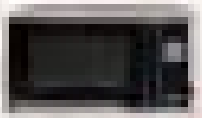

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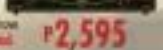
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Slim Beauty Sisters:
Hot and Stylish Refrigerators from SANYO

Sanyo's revolutionary Slim Beauty Refrigerator, the dazzling concept launched last year, has been a resounding success! Now, Sanyo ups the ante with the Slim Beauty Sisters!

Like the original Slim Beauty Refrigerator, these stunning new sister lovers feature sleek metallic surfaces and clean, modern lines. You wouldn't even guess they were refrigerators! Behind their glossy exteriors and deceptively slender frames, however, is a user-friendly and energy-efficient ally that would benefit any household.

Each of the Slim Beauty Refrigerator has a clear transparent door for the freezer compartment that allows you to see what's inside without needing to open it. This means that the cold stays in the freezer, saving you both energy and money.

Taking energy-efficiency and user-friendliness even further, the Slim Beauty Refrigerators also come with a one-touch defrost button. Once pressed, the system automatically starts off-cycle the defrosting cycle vs. completes, making these some of the most eco-friendly refrigerator around.

The Sanyo Slim Beauty Refrigerators are available in 5 cu.ft., 6 cu.ft., and 7 cu.ft., so whether you're looking for a refrigerator for your personal use, or one you're looking to share with someone, or even one for your family, there's Sanyo Slim Beauty Refrigerators fit all your kitchen needs! The Sanyo Slim Beauty Refrigerators are available at all Sanyo dealerships and major appliance stores.

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With the Electrolux air cooler, your husband can comfortably watch his favorite shows at home!

Your wife's sure to appreciate the EMS1041X Slim inland cooking range with electric oven that will make cooking up a feast faster and easier!

Help your parents keep their food fresh this Christmas with the EQE4800A refiner slot by side refrigerator.

Reward yourself with an EWF12021 Electrolux front load washing machine and EDH8080F Electrolux front load dryer. Have happy holidays and spend more time with all your loved for the whole family with these offers from Electrolux.

UNDERGROUND RIVER CERTIFICATE

Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa City turns over to Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez the official certificate of finalist in the New Seven Wonders of Nature global contest right by the mouth of the Puerto Princesa Underground River. Also in photo are Tourism Regional Director Lourdes Jurilla and Miss Earth winner...

New twist for Erap's memoirs: Poetic justice

From page A1

the film befalling his political archenemy and successor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a statement sent to the local media yesterday, Estrada said he had decided to "postpone" the release of his autobiography, supposedly scheduled for this month, in order "to include the arrest" of Arroyo on Nov. 18.

"My vindication continues, so we cannot yet close the book," he said. "The ending was supposed to be in the 2010 [presidential] election, which I got the same number of votes as I got in 1998. That was complete vindication for me."

He added: "It's never [a] closing scene[in Asia]. How it looks like a new chapter is unfolding."

In September 2007, Estrada was found guilty by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court of pocketing hundreds of millions of pesos in illegal gambling payoffs and commissions from slush-fund scandals. But he was spared from his imprisonment by an Arroyo pardon a month later.

Then came the irony: As head of electoral sabotage, Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga, has been ordered by Judge Jocelyn Bihag of Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 to be detained in the same government hospital suite where Estrada said his son Jinggoy were held in the early phase of their six-year plunder trial under her administration.

Two-thirds complete

In an interview with the business on Thursday, Estrada said that the book was two-thirds complete and that it would focus on his presidency as can those by what he called "the conspiracy of the elite," purportedly involving the Church, civil society, a clique of generals and businessmen, and Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Asked then whether he would devote a chapter or a postscript to Arroyo's prosecution, he said: "Mine ay iyon, iisama 'yun [it will be included]."

"Definitely," he later said.

"It's poetic justice. Hindi nila ginawa ang pangmamanipula [Didn't they manipulate] the law? So sabi nga [as they say], how he would describe Arroyo's actions. "With this memoir I hope to get vindication."

Estrada has been talking about writing his memoirs since 2006, a year after his conviction. He mentioned the project again during a visit to the Ilocos region in July.

According to him, the actual writing only started early in 2011 because "I got so busy recovering my losses"—a reference to family business, mainly in real estate.

The yet untitled book has now become a weekly prosecution. "I'm computer literate," he said, apparently to dispel any notion that he was leaving ghostwriting as a ghost enterprise.

As initially planned, the book's scope will be limited to his political career. "Because if we include the life and loves of Erap, it might take several volumes," he said, referring to himself by his nickname, and alluding to a colorful past that includes lobbying children by a number of women, hard boozing and a show biz lifestyle, and even accompanying them as part of his regular chores on the campaign trail.

The former movie star's portrayal may have nagged with age, but not his tough-guy charisma, which is seemingly undiminished by his real life criminal record, and which even helped him bag an impressive second-place finish (9.5 million votes) in last year's presidential race.

Inside story

Estrada said he would back his narrative with official documents to remind "how the so-called civil society and the Church conspired against me," referring to his impeachment and eventual ouster through a people power uprising in January 2001.

THEN PRESIDENT and his grandson, rapper-to-be Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now share the same fate—detention at Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Estrada calls it poetic justice.

Those may be cold but to those who have closely followed his saga. After all, at least five books—by critical and sympathetic authors—have since been written about him, aside from the "video documentaries" produced by his media staff.

But Estrada hinted at a little-known inside story—a reason, so to speak—which may just bright on the book over the upcoming book, that no one by his fellow.

He revealed that apart from being offered safe passage to any foreign country of his choice by the then newly installed Arroyo administration, he was also offered a place by the US government should he decide to go into exile.

He said the offer was "indirectly" made through columnist Jose Manuel "Doy" Bocaletter, who had friends in the US Embassy.

A member of Estrada's media group said the former President had rarely talked in the open about this purported offer of transport from the US Embassy. However, if he had accepted, would have made his life painful to that of another toppled Philippine leader, the former Ferdinand Marcos.

Hours from being besieged by an angry mob at the climax of the first People Power Revolution in 1986, Marcos, his family and cronies were airlifted from Malacañang by US Navy helicopters then based in Clark, Pampanga. They were boarded a C-130 plane to Guam and later to Hawaii.

In media interviews and speeches, Estrada often maintained that he had refused offers for him to leave the country after he was driven from power.

Which country for exile?

He said the offers were made by Arroyo's first justice secretary, Hermenio Perez, during two meetings at the Pasay Back Home of the late socialite businesswoman Chito Madrigal-Collantes.

But in exchange for safe exit from the country, Estrada said, the condition was that Lihuel resign as President in writing, "he said.

During Estrada's visit to this newspaper's office in July, business publisher Sandy Prieto-Romualdez asked him which foreign country he would flee to, if he wish had he opted to go into exile.

The man, sipping red wine and smiling at the memory, replied: "Spain."

It was one of the countries that former had personally intended to visit before the war—just for her never dashed her plans.

Star wars in cyberspace get ugly

From page A1

Barring within a week of the messy breakup of ABS-CBN anchor AJ Dumpsan and Hots Pancrat on national television, in this digital-savvy political short, the time has to be talking celebrities from rival networks TV5 and GMA 7?

"Traumatized," was how GMA 7 insiders described the emotional state of Ramos since the video was posted on YouTube on Nov. 18.

Network piqued

Purportedly recorded on July 28, 2010, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Singapore, the video shows Ms. Tanchin, or Michael for today to mail life, talking in whispers—and sniffing—before the camera. He claims that Ramos was shooting their baby due to pressure from her family and her home network. "When will go to [a] hospital here and get rid of our baby ... Her parents are tough on her. Her station, her channel, her manager are so tough on her, that [she feels there's] just no other option."

But about to take that sitting down, GMA Network, in a statement released on Friday night, announced that it was filing charges against Gomsby "for malicious and false imputations."

Felipe L. Gozon, network chair and chief executive officer—and a lawyer—said the lawyer in an exclusive interview yesterday that Gomsby's video was definitely "libelous."

The video leaked of images of Gomsby's past, Gozon pointed out. "He is not to blame for those. Not to mention that it's ungentlemanly. You shouldn't talk about a former girlfriend that way."

A movie in theaters

Jaded industry observers can't help seeing this scandalous a bloody hype for the careers of both Gomsby and Ramos.

It doesn't help that Ramos has a movie, "The Road," in theaters, and Gomsby hosts two talk shows on TV 5, "Juicy" and "Pa-pansin," in his Twitter account. Sunday-yesterday said he would speak only on "Pa-pansin," which airs Sundays.

With ABS-CBN expected to have a follow-through on last Sunday's whole hoist, it is safe to say that today will be a gossip festival day.

Bad taste

Gozon asserted: "We don't re sort to stunts like this. It's in bad taste."

Pilar Mateo, TV5 creative and entertainment production head, told the business: "If it was a publicity stunt, it would be in our benefit if this stayed longer. We wouldn't have given him permission to leave if we wanted to milk the issue."

On Nov. 27, Gomsby announced on "Papansin" that he was quitting show business, to "rehumanize" in New York after what had been a "rough and traumatic year."

Interestingly, the video was released a day before Gomsby's planned trip to the United States yesterday.

Sources pointed out that he didn't make it a habit to meddle in the production of network talents, but that Ramos' case warranted his attention. The network was dragged through the mud, he said. "Our legal department was still studying the matter, but there were already cost of income from the press on Friday night."

MS TWISTER

RHIAN RAMOS

Sensing the matter's urgency, Gozon checked the facts himself and decided there was a case.

Emotional violence

Lorna Kapunan, who acts as Ramos' counsel, told the business that she will file a temporary protection order in Mandaluyong City tomorrow.

Gomsby, according to Kapunan, violated Republic Act No. 9262. The lawyer explained, "Violence against women covers not only married and live-in couples, but also dating relationships."

According to Kapunan, they are seeking protection from the law because Gomsby earlier made death threats against Ramos—through e-mail and social networking sites.

"From threats on social networking sites, these acts constitute psychological and emotional violence," she said.

Kapunan warned the 13-year age difference between the two. "He's 30, she's 17. He was not supportive [in the relationship]."

A source close to Ramos called the actress' relationship with Gomsby "unfortunate."

Gomsby claims he has no idea how the video in question was "leaked" online. Privately, however, he posted several messages on Twitter that put Ramos in a bad light.

'I loved her'

Ramos was shaken, according to a source, "but was she's determined to fight for her rights."

On Twitter, Gomsby insisted that he doesn't know who captured the video. "The video, entitled "Requiem [Movie.wmv," was posted on YouTube by someone with the username "Pretty Jenny515" on Nov. 18. [An] ex-friend of another entertainment videographer, Raphael Rhu. Somebody claimed that his earlier sold his household appliances, including computers. He said he deleted all the files in the computers, but assumed that the buyer was able to retrieve the "deleted" files.

Gomsby reported on Friday: "I feel terrible about it. I appeal to whoever is in possession of my personal files to refrain from uploading anything further."

He was "apologetic," he said. "I loved Rhian very much."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Underrated scourge

EDITORIAL

WHEN CASES of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome were first reported in 1981, they sent the world into hysteria, with people fearing just about any contact with those who had been found positive with the disease. Spreading rapidly, and with no known cure for it, HIV-AIDS was a dreaded condition.

But once people knew it existed, the ingenuity of mankind was turned to it like a torch pointed at the night. Since then, medical research as well as media education have helped properly inform people around the world about HIV-AIDS. (HIV is the virus that leads to full-blown AIDS.) And the focus has now shifted to prevention.

The World Health Organization estimates that there are 33.4 million people with HIV-AIDS, with Africa being the most devastated territory where an entire generation of children have been born into a life of which HIV is an ever-present element, and where millions die of the disease every year. While a cure remains elusive, HIV-AIDS patients can now look forward to living longer, more meaningful lives.

Back in 1981, the United Nations declared Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day. But as we celebrated the 30th World AIDS Day in 2011, we find out that perhaps the defanging of HIV-AIDS pandemic had also led, here in the Philippines, to our underestimating the disease that so terrified a generation. The Nov. 21 report from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV-AIDS (UNAIDS) stated that "since 1997, new infections (worldwide) have been reduced by 21 percent, while deaths from AIDS-related illnesses decreased by 21 percent since 2005."

But while HIV-AIDS is new on the downturn worldwide, it continues to spread and ravage populations in only seven countries. Unfortunately, one of these is the Philippines.

The numbers are frightening. The Philippine HIV & AIDS Registry reported that there have been a total of 7,831 HIV positive cases up to 2011, of which the vast majority (83 percent) were male. This year alone, 1,800 cases have been recorded. UNAIDS social mobilization adviser Marmelita Aplikado said, "The number of HIV infections and AIDS cases have continue to go up, not down." In fact, the Department of Health reported that September 2011 had the highest recorded incidents of HIV-AIDS ever—some 253 cases, the most since the Philippines began tracking the disease in 1984. Most alarmingly, the disease is hitting hardest the ranks of young Filipinos, especially those between the age of 15 to 24, among whom the number of infections has risen tenfold from 2007 to 2010. Reportedly, sexual contact is the most common means of transmission.

It's as if HIV-AIDS literally crept up on the Philippines and proceeded with its deadly work while we were distracted by the rise of new plagues such as the avian flu.

Aside from letting our collective guard down, the continued spike in the number of HIV-AIDS cases has been attributed to the flawed programs designed to control the disease. The country's anti-HIV-AIDS programs "remain either unfunded or under-funded and have not been able to keep up with the change and pace in HIV transmission," UNAIDS country coordinator Teresita Ilagnaa said. "More than half of program funding comes from external sources," she added.

It is time for the Philippines to reassess the effort against the spread of HIV-AIDS. Earlier this year, the Philippines received a commitment of $20.4 million (P900 million) from the Global Fund to combat the spread of HIV-AIDS. This month, thinkers and activists alike will meet in Baguio for the 6th Annual HIV-AIDS Conference, with the goal of "zero-new infections." There is also a push in Congress to convene a monitoring council as a move to educate more countries Filipino workers about the disease. There are private initiatives, such as the Red Whistle campaign, which aim to increase HIV-AIDS awareness among young people.

But it is only through the concerted efforts of government and citizens, young and old, believed and unbelieved, that we will be able to stop HIV-AIDS in its tracks, and bequeath to our children and their children a future beyond the shadow of this terrible illness.

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Sibylla Rizaliana

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy Durial

WHEN J.R. Jose Rizal was exiled to Dapitan in Mindanao from 1892 to 1896, he buried himself in community development, a vocation vastly different from the role of political intellectual usually associated with him. He built a hospital, opened a school, organized a farmers' cooperative, introduced the European style of brick-making, built the town's first dam and irrigation system, and developed the communal farm. In all these, he harnessed the energy and resources of the local residents, demonstrating a model of community life founded on the people's own initiatives. On the side, his restless mind found time to invent a pedal piano for young people.

Ironically, both his detractors and admirers thought that he was busy doing severe political work while on exile. It is not farfetched to think that if the manuscript "Tales on Sibylla Cumana" ("This is (Sibylla Cumana)") had fallen into Spanish hands, his enemies would have tried to decipher it for hidden messages.

"Sybil" is the Greek word for prioress or prophetess who foretells the future. Sibylline books were books of oracles that were consulted during the early Greek and Roman period to determine the messages behind natural calamities and to learn how to appease the gods. The political leaders of the classical age also turned to these books for guidance when they needed to make crucial decisions. There were many such books that served the purpose, but the most famous were those that were reputed to have come from the Sybil of Cumae. Cumae was a Greek colony near Naples. Only someone steeped in classical literature, like Rizal, standing in the doorway of modern reason, could have thought of resurrecting the spirit of Sybilla Cumana for a perfect parody.

The mechanics of Rizal's game are easy to follow. Please make no re-choosing. Items 6-7-52 questions dealing with the usual potential issues that preoccupy young people. Examples: "Will he lucky in business?" or "Will my husband be good to me?" Some are cryptic and generate a sense of chance. Its himself passed cognitive theory of cause-and-effect paper on which he wrote the questions and answers in Spanish. Sound the pages into a beautifully handcrafted book using a sturdy scorched envelope as cover, and hand-carved the eight-sided top that came with the book. The exquisite craftsmanship is evident in the historical qualities of the manuscript itself.

So wonder the descendants of Rizal's sister Narcisa, to whom he gave the book when he closed down the house in Dapitan, took care of this heirloom as if it was the most important treasure in the world. Narcisa bequeathed it to her son Antonio Rizal Lopez who married Emilia Amat Rizal, the daughter of Paciano. Emilia in turn entrusted it to her eldest son Francisco. It is one of the few Rizal manuscripts that survived the burning of Manila in World War II.

This Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 in the evening, at Auditorium 1 of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell Center, the Ateneo Rizal Family Heritage, Inc. and Cruz Publishing are launching a beautiful replica of this unique parlor game. It shows a different facet in the personality of this genius of our race, Jose Rizal. The "Tales on Sibylla Cumana" (if I may call it that, comes in a finely crafted box that contains a replica of the original manuscript in Spanish, an English translation by Rizal's relative, Gemma Cruz Araneta, and a Filipino translation by historian Ambeth Ocampo. Virgilio S. Almario, A German living room resident, Konrad Pfeiffer created a faithful reproduction of the original engraved by Rizal. It is included in the box.

I salute the members of Rizal's family for sharing this wonderful heirloom with today's young Filipinos. The bearer of Jose Jose without a ball is a time when each time they consult the book of oracles and spin the top. I only hope the publishers have made enough copies to meet the demand from those who will be looking for a distinctive, stylish and meaningful gift this Christmas.

public.live@gmail.com

Living reminders

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE 37,987 is told about a factory owner who made a surprise visit to the plant and saw a man leaning lazily against a post. "How much are you paid a week?" asked the owner. The man replied, "P3,000, sir." The owner gave him P1,000 and dismissed. "Here's your week's pay. Get out and don't ever come back." After he left in a hurry the supervisor told the owner, "Sir, that man is not our worker. He was here to deliver pizza."

* * *

In today's gospel (Mk. 1, 1-8) we hear about John the Baptist who was busy and diligent in his work to prepare for the way of the Lord. He was also passionate and strong in his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. His message was simple and clear: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

* * *

In John the Baptist, we see that the messenger himself is the message. He walked his talk by his very person and lifestyle. Take note: simply words from superficial messengers perhaps inspire, or even impress, but those are not enough to really move people toward change or conversion.

* * *

A lot of us have fallen into the sins of mediocrity and complacency. Many of us have dug in into our comfort zones and don't like to "rock the boat" anymore. Maybe that's the way it goes as we grow. Be that as it may, may we not fall into the greatest sin of cynicism which makes us give up on hope and on life itself.

* * *

There is an interesting story about a farmer who helped put off the fire in a burning church. When the priest found out that he was a Catholic, he asked: "How come I never see you in church?" The farmer said: "Father, I only come to church when the church is on fire." Or, John the Baptist reminds us today to re-examine ourselves and our message. Do our still burn with passion for our message and for our mission?

* * *

It is not often that we priests would be impressed by a fellow priest. I don't know why. Maybe it is because no prophet is acceptable among his own kind. But recently, I met Fr. Bonaventure Vallet, a Franciscan monk who struck me with his simplicity and prayerfulness. In a recent trip with him to a nearby town, everyone from driver up, he was just with his simple habit and a pair of sandals. And I saw how he prayed—in the plane, in the bus—and how he was joyfully in touch with the Divine, a living reminder of God's presence in the present.

* * *

For almost two weeks now, at about 7 p.m., I would receive a call from Leah, a 40-year-old cancer patient who would tell me: "Father, I will sing now. Please say a prayer and blessing for me over the phone." And I did. This mother of three small children who has been given up by her doctors continues to believe and hold on to her God, indeed, a living reminder of courage and faith.

* * *

"One neighbor then I is coming after me." As long as a person believes that there is something or someone greater than himself herself, that person has the right perspective. The problem with the mighty and the proud is that they lose sight of this perspective and begin to believe that they are the be all and end all in life.

* * *

Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a holiday of obligation. On spiritual note, it is also the 50th birthday of our dear mama Concepcion Mabui Orbos, a woman who has always reminded to the way of the Lord, and the love of our Blessed Mother. On that day, we also will launch my book "Treasured Memories," which I lovingly dedicate to Mama.

* * *

The Perpetual Rosary Movement invites you to honor Mama Mary for the Missions on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 at the Garden of the Divine Word (Christ the King Seminary) E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Q.C.) starting at 5 p.m. with a mini concert. At 6 p.m., we will pray the rosary and there will be an offering of roses, and of candles to Fr. Mike Pudna, SVD. At 6:30 p.m., we will pray the novena in the Perpetual Help, and at 7 p.m., the Eucharist (servicio) Mass) by yours truly, ending with the imposition of the scapulars by SVD missionaries. For your free inquiries, please call 721-7497, 726-3643/0917-8238238.

* * *

Seven young men were ordained to the priesthood by His Excellency Luis Antonio Tagle, D.D., STD, archbishop of Manila at the Divine Word Seminary Tagaytay City yesterday, Dec. 3, 2011. The members of the "Tapak" class are, Rev. John Mark Nebio, SVD, from Bacolod City; Rev. Bernard Bo, John Paul Marquez, SVD, from Pangasinan, assigned to Philippines North; Rev. Bruno Sachromo, SVD from Digos assigned to East Timor; Rev. Marwin Tristan Rosario, SVD, from Baguio City assigned to Philippines North; Rev. Gilbert Bautista, SVD, from Sorsogon assigned to Philippines North; Rev. Steven Del Rosario, assigned to Argentina; Rev. Brent Tan Kuan Ve, SDD, from Tawian, assigned to Philippines Central; and Rev. Louie Cris Gregorio, SDD, from Davao City, assigned to Philippines North. May they become living reminders of God's presence in the present!

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to become a living reminder of your presence in the present. Amen

Hacienda Luisita, still a long way to go

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

THE SUPREME Court resolved on Nov. 22, 2011 to invalidate the 2005 Stock Distribution Plan (SDP) of Hacienda Luisita. In lieu of the SDP, the Court ordered the parceling of the huge estate consisting of 4,915.75 hectares (about twice of Makati's 2,736 hectares) for screened families, that is, the 6,296 qualified farmworker-beneficiaries (FWBs).

Constitutional mandates, hailed as a triumph of social justice, the resolutions—penned by Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.—held that titles should be made instead of the land they work on, not just incentive bonuses; landowners must surrender the corporate controlling stock managed by their bogus landlords. It rests on the Constitution's mandate for the state to "undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till..."

The resolutions likewise reversed a July 5, 2011 decision, also written by Velasco, allowing the FWBs to continue owning shares of stock in the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and to be paid with 3 percent of gross economic salaries, home lots and cooperative profits.

However, the parceling and distribution is subject to the caveat, likewise of the Constitution, that requires the "payment of just compensation" to the landowners; in this case, the family of late Cojuangco, father of the late President Cory Aquino.

On this constitutional mark, President Benigno Aquino III's administration—and Cory—could boldly authorize his concept of agrarian reform: "Farmers need to be empowered so they can have their own lands to till. But agrarian reform has a second part. Let us not deplete capital. That means there should be just compensation so that the owners of land do not end up having their land taken from them, that they are rightly paid. The capital that is returned can be invested in other industries that can create more jobs in the country."

Unanimity and divergence. The underlying principle of "land to the landless tiller" was unanimously upheld by 14 magistrates (Justice Antonio Carpio inhibited). But they were divided on several corollary issues; the major one being precisely how to determine "just compensation."

The resolutions essentially consisted in by-only-us justices Velasco, De Castro, Brion, Del Castillo, Abad and Perez. It held that just compensation should be based on the "fair market value" of the estate on Nov. 21, 1989 (coming less than P1 billion) when the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) approved the HLI land distribution only under the "taking" of the estate. But this is "only preliminary" as the HLI can still invest in the Supreme that Court to determine just compensation."

The other justices had divergent views. Justice Bersamin reckoned the "taking" on Jan. 1, 2006. The market value in 2006 could be many times more than in 1989, given the phenomenal rate of property prices. Justice Bersamin, joined by ruthless (Bruno and Bernabe) left the reckoning date to the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Land Bank and "ultimately to the Special Agrarian Court."

Apart from the date of the "taking," other salty gritty issues include: (1) how to account and treat the 3 percent of the gross revenues already given to the FWBs under the SDP; (2) should the FWBs' 33% HLI loan offset proceeds of the 500 hectares converted into non-agricultural uses and business areas; plus the 186.3 million paid for the sale of 80.5 hectares to PUBLI-eg (it and used as part of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) route to the PNRA (the total of P1.33 billion is more than enough to cover the 1989 appraisal of about P1 billion); (3) how to compute the "legitimate rates and expenses" is raised for "legitimate corporate purposes" of HLI, and (4) how the home lots given the FWBs under the SDP are to be valued and accounted.

Awaiting petitions and delay. The Court issued these contentious details to the PARC, DAR and Landbank. The PARC is charged by Presidential decree and is composed of DOJ about secretaries, plus the Landbank president and three representatives of landowners.

More questions: The SCTex traverses Hacienda Luisita. Naturally, the parcels adjacent to or near the expressway command much higher market prices than the interior ones. Should the 4,915 hectares be divided and allotted equally among the 6,000 FWBs at an average of a little less than a hectare per FWB? Who gets what and where? Which brings a deeper issue: Should the FWBs who accepted the SDP be treated to the equal of those who fought it? Also, may the FWBs now sell their possessory parcels?

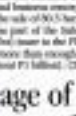
The Nov. 22, 2011 resolution, complicated by the many concurring and dissenting opinions, is by no means easy to implement. Add the fact that the implementation is to be undertaken by P-Noy's allies (see below), the usual delays and wrangling, full of slippery slopes with sharp twists and turns that would still uproot the contending parties into the peripheries of confusion and partisan conflict. These conflicts could threaten the triumph of justice into decades of more unrest before the FWBs could reap their own home and the landowners receive their just compensation to cover necessities, as P-Noy terms.

To help shorten, straighten and flatten the road, the Court, I think, should resolve one unspoken condition that will include all the justices' opinions and thus avoid any of the majority's. In the past, somebody resolutions have been issued to clarify contentious opinions.

* * *

Comments to: ribs@antoniopangalangandlaw.mail.com

Demba and the village of Keur Simbara



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SENEGAL—THEY were all gathered beneath the shade of a huge bkom tree in the village of Keur Simbara, in the state of Thies just outside Dakar, the capital.

As we got down from the bus, we found the performance music of drums and cymbals, including women tossing gourds in the air, the chimes threaded through their edges making tinkling sounds.

Among the first villagers to greet our group was Demba Diawara, a man of about 70 years, in our usage: tall and white cloth cap who has been described as "the wise man who found the key to ending FGC (female genital cutting) in Keur Simbara." It was a great honor to have him welcome us, not only because of his role as a well-respected religious figure and community leader, as well as a medicine person.

As soon as we made our way to seats beneath the tree, the dancing began. Women and children swayed their hips and thrust out their pelvises, eyeing their male partners with shy smiles. The dances followed by young men doing a repertoire of various of break dancing, although I doubt the dance is called by that name here. I am told, though, that Africans brought the dance to New York, where gained with hip-hop, it has made millionaires and billionaires of athletes in places like New York, L.A., Seoul and Manila.

But I digress. We were visiting Keur Simbara because it was one of the five villages where the "community empowerment program" of Tostan was implemented and deemed successful. "Tostan" is a word in the Wolof language that means "breakthrough" as well as "spreading and sharing." Tostan was founded by Molly Melching, an American who decided to stay on in Senegal 37 years ago while pursuing her doctorate in African literature. Initially she was involved in advocating and planning for education based on the six-volume literacy program developed (Wolof is the most widely spoken), but that soon evident into community based education and training. In 1991 Tostan invested in community empowerment program, described as "a reflective, interactive, community-led approach to development, one in which community members themselves create pathways out of the dire poverty that so adversely affects their health and well being."

* * *

AFTER the welcome remarks, a small group of girls gathered to sing a song about human rights, declaring that they know our human rights... and it is not right to discriminate against girls." "Discriminate will arise," they promised.

Then it was the turn of Demba to speak, stressing the importance of words in communicating ideas, especially ideas that move people towards change. But he also warned that change agents must speak with "respect, intelligence and courage."

Respect, or politeness, to get people to listen to you without feeling they are under assault or are being lectured or embarrassed; intelligence to grasp the context in which you are working and what you are talking about. And most of all, courage to overcome opposition or skepticism, even when people "look at you with death in their eyes."

Tostan's progress to date knows for its work in putting an end to female genital cutting, the more public and judgment-accented term for FGM or female genital mutilation. Practiced widely throughout Africa, cutting has resulted in deaths, injuries, infections, infertility and delivery complications for thousands of girls (who are typically pre-adolescent when subjected to the procedure). But parents make their daughters undergo the procedure (which ranges from nicking the clitoris or cervix to totally excising the clitoris and surrounding tissue) in the belief that this makes them "marriageable," as an act women are viewed as "cutthers."

* * *

FEMALE genital cutting emerged as an issue as a result of Tostan's education modules on human rights, especially the rights of women and girls. This was followed by modules on health and hygiene, and the tasks faced by girls undergoing the procedure.

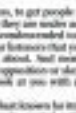
The women called of their experiences with cutting, especially their sorrow when their daughters died or bled after the procedure. They were dismayed what they could do to bring an end to the practice. It was the community management committee of Keur Simbara, formed after extensive workers completed the three-year community education program, that took the bold decision to make a public declaration to put an end to FGC. But it backfired when criticism and in laws to neighboring villages shunned girls from Keur Simbara, saying they would never let their sons marry a girl from there because they were all "uncleaned."

It was then that Demba thought of what has since been called the "social diffusion" theory of social change. It was not enough that a single village declare an end to FGC, he pointed out. Considering the inter-locking social and familial relationships of African society, it would be necessary to create a network of villages that would mutually declare their abandonment of this practice.

This Demba did (and continues to do) by visiting village after village. Together with a team of grassroots educators, including a former "cutter" who decided to abandon her practice, he talked with village leaders about the dangers faced by girls, the health risks of cutting, and related issues like child marriage. "Social diffusion" was also employed through radio shows that increased the reach of interpersonal communication.

In the ensuing years and with the growth of the movement to other countries, Tostan could claim the collective abandonment of FGC and child marriage in over 8,000 communities in six countries apart from Senegal. Alongside this effort, it has also helped push the development of communities, through projects conceived and managed by the villagers themselves.

Iran's saber rattling



WORLD VIEW

Mehdi Khalaji

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As the Shiite ranchers up its economic pressure on Iran to halt its drive to develop nuclear weapons, the Islamic Republic's military are not sitting idly by. Since Iran holds the world's second-largest economic capacity to disrupt Western pressure, it is likely that its leaders will resort to threats, and even to force, to prevent the West from crushing their economy, as the recent attack on the British Embassy in Tehran shows.

Iranian authorities claimed that angry "students" spontaneously attacked the embassy. While inside, they seized documents and set others alight, and took its ordinary employees hostage. It was only much later that the assault came under police control and the hostages were set free.

The scene was quite familiar. In 1979, the United States Embassy in Tehran suffered the angry "student" siege, leading exactly between the two countries that continues to this day. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was not aware of the students' plan in 1979. But he later endorsed their actions, and made sure American was a pillar of Iran's foreign policy.

Iran today is not the revolutionary Iran of 1979. Thirty-two years after the Islamic Republic was established, Iran's leaders are obvious to everyone. The so-called students are members of the Basij militia, which was ordered to attack the embassy, and the hostages were members of the Revolutionary Guards.

In the government's thinking, it does not have to accept responsibility for the attack, the attackers' identity will remain a mystery, and no one will ever be accused of or tried for breaking the law. The Iran Times Agency, which is affiliated with Iran's government, reported that Iran called the British Embassy a "hub of espionage"—the same term used to describe the US Embassy in 1979.

This is not the first time that a European or British Embassy has been attacked by the Basij, the states are higher now than ever before. It is unsure to Iran's nuclear program and Iranian banks' money-laundering activities. Britain sanctioned the Central Bank of Iran. As a result, Iran felt compelled to respond—and not solely with the assault on the British Embassy: a few days prior to the attack, a majority in the Iranian parliament voted to downgrade the country's diplomatic relations with Britain.

Resorting to swinging fist of Western military action against Iran's nuclear facilities, Revolutionary Guard commanders recently discussed their threats against the United States and Israel. Gen. Hossein Salami, commander of the Guard's Aerospace Division, said that, in the event of war, "[NATO] missile-defense installations will be attacked by Iran." Moreover, he threatened that Iran's armed forces would not remain quiet if "economic and cultural pressures" continued.

Likewise, Gen. Ahmad-Reza Radan, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's military adviser and a former commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard, appealed to Iranian officials not to confine their threats to words, but rather to respond with military action. He not only argued that Iran's strategy should be to attack US military facilities, but also threatened that Tel Aviv would be attacked by Hamas and Hezbollah if Israel were to war with the Islamic Republic.

Iran regime argue that if it comes sanctions against Iran's nuclear and military programs—such as the assassination of nuclear scientists and cyberattacks by the Revolutionary Guard's missile arsenals—are already taking place, we has already begun. Moreover, the Revolutionary Guard commanders believe that sweet war will inevitably become over if Israel and the West truly believe that Iran is approaching a dangerous point in its nuclear program. Rhetoric recently stated that "we should threaten [the West and Israel] in response to their threats," which would mean that Iran's Chief of Staff Brigadier General Mohammad Bagheri to conclude that Khamenei's remark means "revising [Iran's] defense strategy."

Obviously, Revolutionary Guard commanders will not divulge what the new strategy is. Instead, they hope that their threats and rhetoric might stop the West from applying more sanctions and greater pressure. Thus, the West's main concerns should stem not from Iran's official responses, but from "independent elements." She knew that attacked the British Embassy because the United States and Britain's imposition of heavy sanctions on Iran's banks, a member of the Quds Force (a Revolutionary Guard unit tasked with carrying out foreign operations) to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington.

Back in 2007, Iranians frown captured a group of British sailors in the Persian Gulf, releasing them a few weeks later under strong pressure from the United Kingdom. With tensions much higher today however, such arts—even if carried out by unknown or unofficial groups—can trigger war. Indeed, Iran might become so fearful of an event war that it starts one itself.

Project Syndicate

* * *

Mehdi Khalaji is a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Sleep, Little Girl and other bedtime stories

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

IT BEGAN on Wednesday, at least for the people who did not read Mon Tulfo, or believe Mon Tulfo, or for those who read Mon Tulfo but did not believe his claims that the current President, Benigno Aquino III, had an affair with Senator Maria Ozawa-Aquino and any and all other Aroyos with the same instinctive degree as when confronted with the plague.

Or, in the words of Mon Tulfo: "Aquino hates the Aroyos like the plague."

On this premise, Tulfo, whose multiple highnesses have his playing candidate opinions, murder and or-

casional television antics, alleged that the current president had burned was due to the existentially human crush that "The person we hate most has the right we don't like in ourselves." Thus "the reason P-Noy hates GMA is because they are of the same character."

In a Nov. 21 column, the veteran correspondent applied the same unique logic to the President's relationship to the memory of married late President Ferdinand Marcos. "P-Noy hates Ferdinand Marcos for the same reason" he wrote. "Both P-Noy and Marcos share one thing in common: One was a dictator and the other is a budding dictator."

That Mon has been unsupervised for over 23 years of being responsible for assassinating the President's father, and was indeed responsible for the same man's long incarceration, may not have occurred to the crusading Tulfo, but perhaps he is correct, and it is President Aquino's exploitation of tyranny that "drives him to hate the hero's beneficiaries of one half of the country's notorious conjugal dictatorship.

It was the same column published on the same day on the paper that attributed a story to "the Malacañang grapevine" about a comment made by budget Secretary Butch Abad. Abad, said Tulfo, made a "bad joke" after "allegedly bawled in during a discussion on salary slots, and her husband should not be allowed to leave the country." He said, "Why don't we just shoot her in the torso?"

It is a story that Tulfo claimed, if true, "applies the kind of advisers P-Noy has in his government."

This was the column referred to by Elena Bautista-Horn, spokesperson for Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who announced on a local radio program that Mon Tulfo's day that there was a possible threat on the life of the former President. Horn announced that a source from a government agency warned her about operation "Iwa tha Little Girl to Sleep."

"There are people now in the administration who wanted to their some evil plans along. They have an operation called 'Pat The Little Girl To Sleep.'"

The source, described by the Spokesperson Horn as highly reliable, said that Mrs Arroyo should be wary of food and medication served to her. It is why they are very worried about the imminent of former secretary Leila de Lima and Commissioner on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes that she be sent President to moved to a government hospital.

"We all know that it came out in Mon Tulfo's column that Secretary Butch Abad was supposed to have said that if Mrs Arroyo were allowed to leave the country, it would be better to simply have her shot in the torso."

Horn also said that she was prepared to put the elements of the story together, and base some to the conclusion that there appears to be collusion plane being put together against the former president. This was clearly a death threat.

Secretary Butch Abad, in responding to Horn's claims, said her statement did not deserve to be dignified with a response. He then responded with the following comments.

He said Horn should make good use of her time at St. Luke's Medical Center and get a psychiatrist to check on herself "because I think she is the one with serious problems." He said the Arroyo camp was suffering from paranoia. He said the allegations were absurd and funny. He said that the Arroyo camp was creating intrigue and that there is none to ignored completely. He said that the Arroyo camp was becoming "desperate" to escape the dungeon against them. He said that they were trying any and all schemes. He said that they had already run out of medical and legal excuses to prevent Arroyo from being detained in the Veterans Hospital, and the government facility where she belongs. He said that they were liars.

Horn claimed in a dzBB interview that she intended on accusations against the government. She said she did not name names. She said she was taken out of context. She said she merely was restating the words of her government source and the statement of one Mr. Mon Tulfo.

She added that she was sane. She said she is willing to undergo a psychiatric test.

On the same Wednesday, Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda added his professional opinion of the alleged intrigue. On the source in President's life, he said the allegations were a product of small minds. He said it was practically a complete fabrication, although he did not specify which of the allegations were not completely fabricated. He said that the spokesperson was a liar.

The former President's husband responded, along with Horn. Horn called the statements of government officials and journalists "vile" and "disgusting." Arroyo herself was silent from their initial reaction. She said instead of accusing them of promotion and ordering an investigation, they were sarcastic and challenging and snicking.

President Aquino, after saying he would not comment, and that it is country to comment, commented that the allegations were the work of liars, and that he had no intention to free, and that there was no proof and thus no need to investigate.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said Arroyo's camp could have overreacted to reports that there is a threat on her life.

Earlier Secretary Leila de Lima said it is the height of paranoia.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Arroyo was crying wolf.

Sen. Francis Escudero said he hopes Arroyo is not attempting to generate sympathy with an "outbreak me" scenario.

Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile, who has experience and expertise in "outbreak me" scenarios, said it was illogical for Malacañang to kill off the former president as fingers would point at them.

Spokesperson Lacierda and nobody believes Arroyo. Secretary Abad said the public will not be confused. Senator Loren Legarda said people, even on social media, have shown nobody believes Arroyo. Tulfo says that's because most enemies see the true kings of Iwaa, and the last of Aurora.

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

NEW SELDA Prison in Muntinlupa

THE AFP Medical Center in Quezon City

A ROOM prepared for Arroyo in the Southern Police District in Makati

Where should GMA be detained?

(Editor's Note: We asked Filipinos across the country the question to get a sense of how they want former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to be treated while being tried for electoral sabotage, a nonbailable offense. They gave their answers before Judge Jesus Mupas ordered that she be transferred to Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.)

OFFICIALS inspect the presidential suite at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay Regional Trial Court has ordered that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo be transferred to Veterans Memorial from St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City.

Northern Luzon

'Keep her in ordinary jail'

"It is just right that GMA be detained in an ordinary jail because of the wrongdoing she allowed to last. There should be no VIP treatment when it comes to crime. All must be treated equally. There should be fairness when it comes to justice." – Bernadette Maulleshed, 35, housewife, Baguio City

"I prefer house arrest, if she indeed violated the law as she can have her dignity. She did good things when she was President." – Nilda Rivera, 47, maintenance, Urdaneta, Batangas

"She should be held in her home in Lubao as she can recover fast. She can have her cancer squarely cure she is healthy." – Rodolfo Serrano, 65, cigarette vendor, Urdaneta, Pangasinan

"The government should allow GMA to stay in the hospital or in her house either in Pampanga or in Quezon City because her condition is painful. She is sick and her condition might worsen if she is kept in jail. We should show to the world that our government is not heartless." – Manuel Pascual, 33, farm helper, Mabalacat, Pampanga

"GMA must be placed under house arrest in at least give her a little respect as former President. Whether she's guilty or not depends on the court. So let's give her a little respect." – Lee Waldher, 32, passenger van driver, Dagupan, Isabela

'She deserves to be with Lolong'

"She deserves to be with the biggest crocodile, 'Lolong,' in that improvised jail in Bicol. But she also deserves due process." – Jason Balagtay, 25, teacher's assistant, Dagupan

"They should follow what they did then to former President Erap Estrada. He was allowed to be detained in a government hospital and was later transferred to his rest home in Tanay, Rizal. She should not be kept in a facility where common criminals are held because that's so degrading for a former President." – Ronald Mauricmag, 28, security guard, Calamba, Laguna City

"If she is really sick, then she should be detained in a hospital. But if not, she should stay in prison because she has to pay for her sins against the Filipino people. She is accused of plunder and electoral sabotage." – Fernando Zafranco, 59, house helper, Calamba, Dagupan

"GMA should be put in an ordinary cell like other criminals. There should be no special treatment for her." – Epifanio Ladao, 37, tricycle driver, Dagupan City

Southern Luzon

'Send her to Bilibid'

"We want GMA detained in a jail facility. She has to pay the price for her wrongdoing and it is the only way the Filipino people can be vindicated. She must suffer her fate." – Ruth Ann Fortunato and Cecille Villavicencio, both 18 and first year college students at Saint Cruz Institute, Marinduque

"She should be sent to Muntinlupa (New Bilibid Prison) considering the gravity of what she had done. She never was a president anyway." – Rolly Asuncion, 45, FX Tamaraw driver in Bicutan, Taguig

"She should be jailed in a regular cell like all others facing charges." – John Jhon Francisco, 46, farmer, El Nido, Palawan

"Those accusing Gloria are committing the minds of people or become vindictive. Even some priests are becoming vindictive and that discouages me from going to church. This is because I still believe in forgiveness as one of the greatest values that the Church should preach. What will happen if all of us will start with her (jailing of president)? Will we do the same to P-Noy after his term? – Reynaldo Alcazar, 56, tube vendor, Camalig, Albay

'Hospital arrest for her'

"I would rather see Gloria under hospital arrest because if she is in jail that would be a big shame for our country. My neighbor, who has a son in Saudi, complained that when Erap (the former president) was put in jail he was ridiculed." – Soledad Bobiswals, 54, vendor, Daet, Albay

"She should be jailed at the Southern Police District to she could experience punishment for her wrongdoing." – Henry Mamangonong, tricycle driver, Calapan City

"She should stay in her house (in Viray) because she is sick." – Alberto Amulong, a Famorca Hangyar and post worker in Mindoro.

"Arroyo should be jailed at the orthopedic hospital since she is suffering from a bone-related disease. That would be for her own good as she could recover physically." – Victor Ibanez, 52, businessman, Los Baños, Laguna

"She should be at the Southern Police District or worse that no one is above the law. Power does not last and Filipinos are no longer sympathetic to her." – Jaypee Sarmiento, 37, housewife, Sta. Cruz, Laguna

"Arroyo should not be given special treatment when detained in a police cell. There are available hospitals anyway if she needs medication. Aren't they the ones who made the law? They should obey the law they themselves made so people would follow. The law should be fair." – Augusto Aquino, 48, dentistry caretaker

THE GATE of the Arroyo residence at No. 14 Balijas St. in La Vista, Quezon City

'A dignified place'

"She should be sent home and kept under house arrest. She was our former president, after all. She deserves a dignified place to stay in." – Gerry Christian Gallegos, 25, human resources head, Talisay City

"House arrest is unacceptable because she still misses be free in her house." – Joubert Hervias, 41, vendor, Iloilo City

"She should be detained in a hospital because she has several ailments. Even the answer all the allegations against her if she does? If she gets better, then she should be detained in the cell of the Southern Police District." – Raul Reyes, 44, barangay tanod, Cebu City

"She should be jailed at the police station. The law should be imparted just there should be equal treatment whether she detained or sick or poor. She should also experience what we poor people deal with." – Wilbert de Monteverde, 30, pedicab driver, Iloilo City

The Visayas

'In SPD room'

"Just like any other criminal, she code of law must apply. Ergo, she should be detained at the Southern Police District (SPD). Remember, there are many detainees who are suffering from many serious illnesses but are in jail for lesser offenses." – Al Alburon, 43, civil engineer, Iloilo

"She should be detained at Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Former President Joseph Estrada was jailed in the same place. I think she will be treated well by the hospital staff if she is jailed there." – Jaimee Morales, businesswoman, Bacolod, Negros Occidental

"She should be detained in the same place where other people who commit such offenses against the Filipino people are jailed." – Edgar Jarve, 50, government employee, Bacolod City

"I find no other place for her but the SPD cell." – Ramon Silvano, 51, businessman, Bacolod

"She should stay at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. That hospital is where she deserves to be confined considering that she is suffering from a bone ailment." – Dexter Pagbaanan, 45, college professor, Tacloban City

"I would like her to be kept in a normal jail. If she were placed under house arrest, it would be as if nothing happened to her. She is not bedridden so she shouldn't be confined in a hospital. A normal jail will do. So what if she is a former President?" – Chai Belarmino, 31, BPO account team leader, Cebu City

Mindanao

'Veterans hospital will do'

"Veranza (Memorial Medical Center) hospital will do. Because in Metro Manila (also Pennsylvania) where I stayed before, there are no facilities that can be used to save lives from different detentions." – Danny Endino, political detainee under Marcos regime, chair of Kalinga Foundation, Davao City

"Since GMA cites political persecution, she should join the thousands of political detainees languishing in jail, many of whom were arrested on trumped-up charges during her term." – Arnulfo Mamon, 35, college professor, Cagayan de Oro

"Veranza (Memorial Medical Center) is humanitarian reasons. Her conscience will do much her more than any form of human punishment." – Ady Plaza, 62, retired librarian, Cagayan de Oro

"Given that she's an ex-President and the procedure made in Hyatt case, house arrest would be a reasonable scenario." – Odette Lagumbay, 35, demand manager, Del Monte Philippines, Cagayan de Oro

"Should that question still be asked? Is Bilibid?" – Marivelle Pangandaman, 23, zone manager, Avon Cosmetics, Cagayan de Oro

"In jail, of course, because it would be unfair to ordinary Filipino citizens if there's special treatment." – Aaniah Pastian, 18, student, Agusan National High School, Butuan City

"It should be her due respect befitting a former President. I wouldn't prefer house arrest." – Oliver Bulang, 28, lawyer, Cabadbaran City Agusan del Norte

"There's no other option but jail to show that the laws are applied to all, either you're good or sick." – Marvin Cuarteros, 33, franchise development executive, Surigao

"She should be put in jail. She is no different from other criminals." – Rolly Awarella, 25, security guard, Digos City

"She should stay where Erap stayed." – Alyn Galvez, 33, manga tapuan, Bagumbayan Davao del Sur

Metro Manila

'Where Morong 43 were detained'

"She should be detained where the Morong 43 were detained before. In the end, we all would experience being away from her family as well as the pain each situation brings." – Kathy Anne Ebol, freshman writer, Quezon City

"Gloria has a new home in La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City. I prefer that she gets well so she can face the charges. I'm not pro-GMA. I just want justice to prevail. She should appear to court." – Rose Gonidjaro, 58, physiotherapist, Paco, Manila

"Government hospital. Initially, I was thinking of the SPD detention center as her rightful place, but I guess it's my soft side wanting to give her the benefit of a little more comfort, if there is, in a government hospital. She doesn't seem frightful. I am accepting her health issues, albeit, both fine and other human rights and a little considerations." – Ben Sagun, assistant academic librarian

"She is sick. She could be better taken care of in her own welfare in government hospitals or in a detention facility of the Southern Police District. She can't stay in government jails. She might not be taken care of." – Amaref Olsen, 31, technician, Malabon

Interviews by Aisha Calabuig, Philamer Hagos Jr., Vincent Cabreza, Rhonda Ann Ito, Dennis Calimon and Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Tonette Orejas, Jun Mendiz, Robert Garmago and Analisa Rojas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Boy M. Ausan and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Tagalog; Marlowe T. Hubalo, Gerald Cleve Querubin and Marivic Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla P. Gomez, Jun A. Gabieta, Jason Nograles, Edison Bisa-Angeles and Phelan P. Borges Jr., Visayas Bureau; Cai Ordinario, Jamaine S. Santos, Orlando B. Olivar, Franklin M. Caligned, Inquirer Mindanao; and Jeannette I. Andrade, Ma. Isabel Aellan Marquina, Mike Collantes and Julie Aurelio in Manila

FM CHOSEN AS PARTNER FOR GROWTH
Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima (third from right) meets with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (fifth from left), Millennium Challenge Corp. president Daniel Johnson (fourth from left) and USAID administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah (third from left) on the sidelines of the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. The Philippines is one of the only four countries, and the only country in Asia chosen by the US government for Partnership for Growth (PFG), together with El Salvador (South America), Tanzania and Ghana (Africa). The PFG is a new US framework of assistance which aims to promote and support broad-based economic growth and to deepen and strengthen its engagement with development partners in line with US President Barack Obama's policy directive on global development.

BABY John Arvie Charles Angeles

'Hostage' baby is finally home

From page A1

"I felt very happy as a mother. The first time I carried my baby," said Encanto, a first-time mother at 34.

"Although initially he felt uneasy, moving in every direction while I was holding him, it was nervous tension. He fell asleep in my arms in the presence of our new home," she said.

That was Nov. 22, the day baby John was finally released from the nursery in tentative sync onto of this. University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose Tamayo Medical Center (UPH) in Biñan, Laguna, and the mother and son made their way to their rented room in Nuvo Ville, Muntinlupa.

Inquirer story

Their deliverance occurred exactly 10 days after the moving "Hospital holds baby until mom pays up," some out in the Inquirer.

On July 19, Encanto gave birth to baby John prematurely—although by natural procedure—at the UPH after government hospitals in Manila refused them admission for one reason or another.

For the next four months she was not allowed to touch or hug her baby as hospital staff said he needed intensive care because having weighed only 1.14 kilograms at birth, he had pneumonia and pulmonary problems.

After the Inquirer pub. lished the story about the mother who had been unable to embrace her baby since giving birth four months before, Senator Loren Legarda led a big celebration and friends, asking for prayers and money so Baby John could be reunited with his parents for three-

Early Christmas gift

Encanto said it was indeed an early Christmas gift and thanked those who prayed with them because she did not expect the release to happen so fast.

"I got a call from the hospital at 9am. 3 pm asking me to bring the necessary identification papers," she said.

She happened to be at the Department of Health (DOH) office in Manila at the time, attending with Undersecretary Teodoro Herbosa who had called her and promised her that he would talk with the staff of UPH, at the insistence of Health Secretary Enrique Ona.

"Undersecretary Herbosa told me that it was wrong for any hospital to keep a baby or a patient even if the family is unable to pay the hospital bill. He said it was against the public law No. 9439, or the Anti-Patient Detention Law," Encanto said.

She said she and Baby John's father had signed a promissory note undertaking to pay the hospital bill in monthly installments.

"But Herbosa told me that even with the promissory note, we should pay only according to our capability because we have no permanent job," Encanto said.

With her baby now under her care, Encanto has returned to her job as a cashier at the Alabang Country Club. Her husband, a Filipino-Argentine who used to work as a guest catcher at the South Luzon Expressway, has been jobless since his contract ended.

"My mother takes care of him (Baby John) when I'm at work," she said, as I'm not looking for guarantees and dowries," she said.

Encanto said her work is backbreaking, and nevertheless believes it may have caused her water bag to rupture early, causing her to give birth two months before her due date.

"They told me I was very hardheaded, that I wouldn't listen to them, because at five months I was still carrying those heavy bags," she said.

Lesson learned

According to Dr. Evelyn Ramentereros, the UPH hospital director, the hospital had "accommodated them out of compassion because we wanted to help them."

In the four-month period between July 19 and Nov. 18, the couple owed a total of P718,000 for the delivery and care of the premature baby in the hospital unit.

On Nov. 16, the Inquirer came down to P660,000. Then after the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) guaranteed a donation of P62,000.

Ramentereros from guaranteeing an P58,000 assistance. Undersecretary Herbosa told us not to lose hope. "He went back to PCSO upon the DOH's recommendation. I hope they can help us again," Encanto said.

As of Nov. 29, Encanto said her brother's ac. counts—Jonathan Encanto (CIF# 1608.28...at the Bank of the Philippine Islands, whose donors may deposit donations—had reached a total of P6,000 from anonymous donors. Other can be contacted at 8999-3721 ext.)

"I am just totally happy being united to John. I keep thanking God for giving us the opportunity to be able to pay much a big amount when financial assistance is coming in [online]," she said.

Her sudden friends, fellow expatriates, have been extending her help, telling her that having her baby all to herself now after her agonizing months should be what she should occupy her thoughts on, not the worries that only serve to distract her.

Encanto said that it will be a long time before she even tries to have another child.

"That was the biggest lesson I learned. If I get pregnant again, I'll make sure I am financially ready. I know how it feels to be rejected by hospitals," she said.

Journey between loss and forever

From page A1

In that early December morning, trying to avoid a runaway-in-fear had cut his path, Mikey slammed his car against a post on C-5 Road and was killed.

Joey, on the other hand, was one his way from Orion Bataan in an SUV driven by the father of one of the five other boys in the vehicle. To this day, details remain sketchy on the cause of the accident. Some of the boys were injured but Joey's injuries were the severest. He was the only one who did not survive.

Nothing prepares one for the shock of the death of one's child. The shock becomes magnified where the death is caused so.

Dr. Catherine Sanders, who wrote the classic book "How To Survive The Loss of a child," is a bereaved parent. She had her teenage son, Jim, in a boating accident in the 1970s. A psychologist, she devoted the rest of her professional life after his son's death to studying parental bereavement. She has helped thousands of families heal.

"My initial purpose was to find out what caused the awful pain, the physical, gut wrenching pain," Sanders writes. "I eventually learned that the pain cannot be circumvented. It must be borne with full vengeance and awareness. What can be lessened, is to understand as much as possible about grief even before it happens."

In the book "Recovery from Bereavement" by Shelve and Weiss, interspersed here and there in thumbnail as difficult in believing that the loss has really occurred and an inability to face the loss, as well as social withdrawal from others who could provide comfort.

Sanders believes these reactions are all part of the shock that often follows the sudden loss of a child.

"Shock goes on for months, partially cloaking the bereaved in an insulated sheath that prevents them from experiencing the reality of the death too acutely. There is a tendency to remain closely attached to the deceased long past the time that others think they should be," Sanders says.

But the intensity should often wears out in the first few weeks or months after a loss. This is not true for cases of sudden or traumatic death because the circumstances that surround the loss of the child often take a longer time to comprehend. The phase is also said to be the second year after the child's death. Intrusive and 'understanding of the bereaved' pauses and all who support them are required.

Rachel's Joey

Joey was brought to a hospital in Pangasinan after the accident. Underwent surgery and put on life support for the time the Carlos couple reached the hospital that afternoon, he had been declared brain dead. The couple stayed with their eldest son for the next 24 hours. He never woke up and died the following day.

"For quite a while, I was confused whether his death anniversary was Dec. 2 or 3...It's so hard to see your son in that state. I feel cold and clammy while I am talking to you, like there is still an elevator shock running through my body," Rachel says, speaking in English and Filipino.

"Sometimes, I remember things and then forget them, I get confused sometimes by some of the events ... During the wake, there were thirteen parents who said there were two Aaronans who died at the same time. It turns out they meant Mikey de Larrazabal."

The thought of losing never entered the minds of the Carlosses. Asked after Joey had died if they wanted an autopsy of his body in case they would sue, Rachel said she believed it was not something Joey would have wanted because he was very close to the families involved...She still believes she had made a prudent decision.

Rachel says that to this day, she finds difficulty remembering the exact details of Joey's accident, or perhaps, she says, she chose not to know.

Recalling the wake in 2008 for Antol Aloncans, the 3rd grader who died with an acute fever in an Ormoc parking lot, she says she was so overcome with denial's mother could narrate exactly what happened. "I will of felt envious that she could do that..." says Rachel.

Moving on, slowly

She now reflects that perhaps she had put her grief on hold because it was a busy period and there were many people around. However, around mid-January 2008, after what would have been Joey's 13th birthday, she says she began to experience tremors and could not sleep well.

Rachel says she also found it difficult to get back in her exercise routine. She also did not want to do the same things she used to before Joey's death.

To treat the tremors and sleeplessness, she saw a psychiatrist. After eight months of sessions, her memories and tremors strength slowly came back.

"I started to realize that this couldn't go on and I had to start helping myself, too. I could also see that my other children were suffering because of me."

Run for Joey

Rachel still grapples with the meaning of Joey's death.

"What's the meaning of that? Well, maybe (it's to) the Joey Carlos scholarship program that we put up for a deserving high school student at Ateneo, ideally from a public school in Marikina, where we are from. We support one student through four years of high school."

Rachel's passion for running and her search for meaning eventually dovetailed. She did her first ascended 42K marathon, which she dedicated to Joey. The run raised additional funds for the scholarship program. Rachel called the event "Run for Joey."

"I'm just taking it one day at a time. If it's a good day, I smile, I get through it. It's a hard thing for strength, letting the tears wash away the pain. I look forward to tomorrow with the hope that it will be a good day (one more)."

Jo Ann's Mikey

On learning of her son's accident, Jo Ann de Larrazabal knew Mikey was gone but she was firm in her resolve to drive, get out to C-5 and follow her firstborn to the hospital so she would be with both him and Mikey.

"I was pushing myself: I was driving and I was alone. So I told myself—'My son is dead but I have to get to the hospital, to be with Albert, to be with my son.' So I said, 'Drive carefully now...'"

The death of a child defies the normal order of things. To release your child and give him back to his Maker is the ultimate sacrifice. But for the Larrazabals, the act of surrender seemed to have come naturally.

"We seem to let body, we held him, we prayed over him," Jo Ann recalls. "We thanked him for having such a wonderful son. We told him there were no words to miss that needed to be filled, that everything was great with us. And we thanked God for making us his parents, for choosing us to raise him and then we said, 'Go darling, just go with your Maker, go with Him.'"

Albert, for his part, told her: "I'm glad I was there when he was born and that I was there when he died. I was there to the beginning and at the end."

One thing Albert made clear to Jo Ann as they stood in front Mikey's body: "There is no one to blame. I want that to be very clear, that there shall be no blaming." She says this set the tone for their journey of grief.

Jo Ann: "Blaming is a very painful and ugly thing to go through and sometimes persons you trust moving on you. I was not through hell. But saying the same very easily on making those right decisions—getting back into race to the hotel...deciding that we will not blame anybody or anything for the accident was a good start for us."

Gift of a dream

For a long time, Jo Ann was haunted by the terrible dream repeated the night before Mikey's accident and on her regret at not being able to hug him...as she usually does. Because she had slept early that night.

"My regret is that I was not able to say goodbye to him ... I kept berating myself—why didn't I get to hug him?"

Her wise-eyed somewhat a year and three months after to find when he came to her in a dream.

"In the dream, he came down and hugged me really tight. And I started sobbing hard and for a long time it was like that until I could not breathe anymore. I woke up ... I felt...oh wow, he gave me the chance to hug him and he did that too for his dad and his sisters."

Having no guilt or regrets helped, Jo Ann says, the area she has learned to love in complete surrender.

"You make a decision to look at things through the eyes of grace ... Do your answer, do—'for take care of me God because I don't know what to do.' I know that God did not make this happen. But work with my life and nobody do (you) to change?' ... You just have to trust even if you are in the depths," she says.

Jo Ann has started to open herself up to new experiences and began doing Ritcom yoga, saying it time to reconnect with Mikey.

"We never really lose your child because the hearing of your heart is to sync with your child's heart so I've been saying that time just to be with him. And I'm a lot calmer, more peaceful."

Through it all, Albert has been a source of strength for her.

"I embrace my pain. I embrace the joys and grace that I receive, that's all we can do," she says. "But embrace whatever you are given and you will get through it. Love is the most essential part of life ... Love brought Mikey to our lives, the love we had for him made him grow to be a fine young man. Our love, respect for one another's sorrow and open communication with each other kept us together in spite of our tragedy. That's all it is."

"Between Loss & Forever : Filipina Mothers on the 'Grief Journey'" is published by Anvil and available at National Book Store and Powerbooks. Visit the book's blog at http://betweenlossandforever.

At Mogpog.com/ or check its Facebook page....Between Loss and Forever (BLF)

Across the NATION

2 Army officers held for kidnapping

Major, corporal cornered after clash with police in Cagayan de Oro City

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Two military officers and two of their alleged civilian accomplices tagged in a recent kidnapping case were arrested following a clash with police early Friday.

Cornered were Maj. Hilarion Tangalin, officer in charge of the military police battalion of the 4th Infantry Division (ID) based in Camp Edilberto Evangelista here; Cpl. Harvey Boreros, member of the intelligence platoon of the 4th ID and civilians Dilda Mojarrad and Aileyn Tomawis.

Police said the four were involved in the Nov. 29 kidnapping in Manticao City of businessman Ibrahim Ali, according to Chief Supt. Francisco Crisostimo Jr., head of Task Force Ranao.

Crisostimo said authorities received intelligence reports that the P5-million ransom for the release of Ali would change hands here last Thursday.

Crisostimo said the task force coordinated with Tagoloan Over City police director Senior Supt. Gerardo Bondoc to mount a joint operation to intercept the suspects.

Tangalin, Tomawis and Mojarrad were on board a red Honda sedan with license plate No. UMH-334 when they were intercepted by police past midnight on Masterson Avenue, Upper Carmen, this city.

Tangalin's group, a police report said, resisted arrest, leading to a gunfight between the suspects and police that ended near a mall here with the arrest of the suspects. Boreros, the alleged "spotter" for the group, was arrested later.

Authorities said they received reports that Ali had been released although this was still being confirmed.

Bondoc said the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the joint Task Force Ranao were now preparing charges against the suspected kidnappers.

Maj. Eugenio Julio Oñate Jr., 4th ID spokesperson, said the Army would not interfere in the police investigation of the arrested major and corporal.

"We will not meddle in the investigation," said Oñate, quoting Maj. Gen. Victor Felix, 4th ID chief, in saying.

Police in North Cotabato had said kidnappings continue with impunity in the area because of the protection given by politicians and other officials in the military and police.

The most recent kidnapping case involved three fourth Ecomen who were freed by a still unidentified armed group.

The Ecomen were seized on Oct. 21 and freed weeks later. It wasn't clear if authorities had paid the ransom. —*TJC Peñaso, Inquirer Mindanao*

UMBRELLA DAY
Dagupe residents (and visitors) bring out their umbrellas as rain pour during the annual lighting ceremony for the city's Christmas tree, which ushers in the city's official celebration of the holidays.

Board member, 7 others charged with slay try

By Florencio Bines
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A provincial board member and seven others believed to be guns-for-hire are in jail here after they were charged with frustrated murder for the killed assassination of a city councilor.

Charged were Arnulfo "Nato" Teves, a provincial board member, and Jasper Tamayo, Pacito Libron, Alex Mayagma, Remy Docuyo and Herman Bacus of Bayawan City; and Ro Sharon and Jomar Nacor of Santa Catalina.

They were charged with conspiring to kill Bayawan City Councilor Victorianus Alabastro on June 24 inside the Negros Oriental State University (Nocsu) in Sta. Catalina campus. Alabastro is a law professor at Nocsu.

Alabastro, who took a bullet in the stomach, survived the second attempt on his life. The first attempt to kill Alabastro was on Dec. 21, 2010.

Escoto, now in police custody said he was involved in the June 24 plot to kill Alabastro, but not in the December plot.

Escoto tagged Teves as the mastermind. He also identified Tamayo and Libron as the ones who directly approached him for the hit job.

Teves, according to Escoto, wanted Alabastro killed because of the councilor's fight against gambling. Escoto said Teves was the top financier in illegal gambling operations in the third district of Negros Occidental.

Teves refused to discuss the case.

Escoto was arrested by police in Sixto town last Nov. 18 for illegal possession of firearms and explosive.

Escoto, along with Anthony Lauro, was said to be out to assassinate Negros Oriental Gov. Roel Degamo. Escoto and Lauro are in the police series of battle as guns-for-hire. They however denied planning to kill the governor.

They admitted, though, that their target was to ambush Dodoy Gaco, village secretary of Buena Vista, Siaton. They said Sioco, a neighbor of the governor, was the coordinator of the illegal lottery Ilonga Milyonaryo, a racket of the Sweertins, another illegal numbers game.

During investigation, Escoto admitted participating in the planning and execution of the plan to kill Alabastro.

He said the firearms were supplied by Libron and Tamayo. Escoto said after the assassination, he and his accomplices went to Silong Sugar Central in Sta. Catalina town, which is managed by Teves.

5 Chinese held by Navy for poaching in Palawan

By Rodelyn Jo Arcos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA—Naval authorities on Thursday arrested five Chinese nationals conducting illegal fishing off Palawan's southernmost municipality in Balabac.

Adm. Rustico Peña, Naval Forces West (Narfwest) commander, said the five were brought to Puerto Princesa on board BRP Apolinario Mabini on Saturday for the filing of charges.

He said the Chinese fishermen were spotted aboard a speed boat some 1.5 nautical miles from the coastal village of Ramos, Balabac, and were caught red-handed using a chisel by an enforcement team led by a Navy patrol boat.

The Chinese's boat yielded five live marine turtles, three dead ones and assorted fishing paraphernalia, including butchering tools.

Peña said the arrested Chinese nationals were believed to have come from the mainland China province of Hainan and was part of a bigger fishing fleet which was able to escape arrest.

The Chinese speed boats, according to Barbaverai spokesperson Lt. Noel Joseph Cadagat, had two high powered outboard engines and used to ram the naval patrol boat before attempting to escape.

Cadagat said the Chinese speed boat malfunctioned during the chase allowing the law enforcers to catch up.

Peña, in an interview, said he observed that the Chinese poachers have adopted new tactics approach were no longer the ones conducting fishing but were instead financing local villagers to conduct the illegal fishing.

"We need our local government units to be more vigilant and prevent this form of exploitation by foreign poachers," Peña said.

Dozens of Chinese poachers had gotten away with illegal fishing in Palawan in the past after national government officials, after the Department of Foreign Affairs, intercede on their behalf amid Chinese government protests.

China is claiming the entire South China Sea as its territory in a dispute with several other countries in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

While the Philippine government has laid claim to territories that it sees falls part of West Philippine Sea, it was unlikely for the country to be able to protect that claim to the face of Chinese military might.

GOVERNMENT soldiers stand in attention at a memorial site for Andres Bonifacio in Manila during the revolutionary hero's birth anniversary on Nov. 30. —EDD GUMBAN

Sword and other Bonifacio ties to Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—As lively soup and a sword are the latest pieces of evidence that national hero Andres Bonifacio, a revolutionary leader who gave up in Tarlac, Manila, also has connections to Pampanga, a historians said.

Francis Musni, a researcher for the Center for Kapampangan Studies (CKS) of Holy Angel University (HAU), said they discovered the "saber Bonifacio," a local soup made from boiled horse called "tuslang Bonifacio," and a sword made in Apalit town, called "Barasbonifacio," which is similar to the Moro kris.

"The term indicates that Bonifacio was touted among Kapampangans. There might be some affinity to him because only would a soup or knives be named after him? Why would a sword be made in Pampanga when this could be made in Cavite?" said Musni, whose research was recently presented to historians during the Kapampangan conventions of Bonifacio, which is being introduced by HAU professor Joel Rogelio.

"We somehow see connections of Bonifacio to Dean of arnis Cayetano Arnis," said Musni.

He said linking Bonifacio is similar to the horses of the ruling Aquino (Cojuangco Aquino) clan, the local version of the chili pepper Chef Gil Aquino Hernandez Living Barrosino had preserved having Bonifacio by growing it in his backyard garden.

"The real history we garb, and said the saber Bonifacio was what the Katipuneros in Pampanga survived as in the last phase of the revolution," Musni said at a program organized by the city government.

"Why would a sword be made in Pampanga when this could be made in Cavite...'

as a tribute to Bonifacio, whose 148th birth anniversary was remembered by the country last Nov. 30.

"Many of us are too busy about material as well as news [that] we forget those who left [their] these lives for freedom and independence," Mayor Oscar Rodriguez said.

Musni said the research team came across Bonifacio in Barangay Capalangan in Apalit, which is where participated in the base of Pandra Pina, who forged cannons and other weapons for the pro-Spanish Kapampangan kingdom.

Musni said unlike the cannons owned, the blade of Bonifacio is "saber-like," owing to curves similar to the kris.

"We're told by old ancestors that the favorite of Katipuneros were the Bolo-knives. Those Katipuneros belonged to the Magdiwang group that Bonifacio led," he said.

A foot and a half in length, the Bonifacio had long been out of production, Musni said.

Last year, Regala elevated the records of the Commission on Elections where he discovered that 3,000 people, surnamed Bonifacio, live in Mimaropa town, Another 206 Bonifacios live in Masbate, the town from where Mimaropa town named out.

In contrast, there were only 102 Bonifacios living in Tondo, the capital of Bonifacio's birth in Tagalog City, which is said to be the hometown of the hero's father, Santiago, Segala's research showed.

Another Kapampangan connection to Bonifacio is the presence of Gabriela Silang in Gangna town, near Bataan, Pampanga's capital during the Spanish colonial period.

These cells were attributed to the organizing work of Antonio Tolentino, Emeterio Bonifacio and Guillermo Masangcay, Musni said.

He said the relatives of Bonifacio in Mimaropa have passed the three-generation test, a validation requirements for local history.

As released by Presenio Bonifacio, 66, in the Wednesday release, it was public knowledge in the town that relatives of the hero found on the coastal village of Mackling, which is now known as Sta. Cruz in Mimaropa.

Presenio's mother, Catalina de Castro, lived in neighboring San Esteban.

Claiming Bonifacio as their own, the relatives, with the help of the CKS, built a bust of the hero at Sta. Cruz Elementary School.

Presenio said the connection with Bonifacio began with Narcisa, their great great grandfather.

Lorenzo, now 85, and a cousin of Presenio, said Narcisa had 11 children, including Agustin, Bruno, Felix, Manuel, Severino, Catalina and Margarita.

Bruno is Lorenzo's father while Manuel is Presenio's father. Felix is the father of Rosario, now 86.

She recalled that Narcisa had often told her that he participated in the Katipunan times to bring out to Bonifacio.

The relationship of Bonifacio, Catalina or their son, Andres, to Bonifacio is unclear, however.

Presenio said they could not determine the exact relationship because other Bonifacio progeny usually referred to their relatives by only using the term "pinsanpinsan" (cousins).

Meat imports hurting us, say backyard hog raisers

DAGUPAN CITY—Backyard hog raisers here urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to stop importation from flooding provincial markets with frozen meat, saying it's bringing huge losses to them.

"If the backyard raisers close down, 78 percent of the industry will die. That is a big part of the industry that will lose income," said the party-list group's spokesman.

Documents supplied by Alono showed that 78 percent of the hog industry is composed of backyard raisers, dominating commercial hog farms that represent the remaining 30 percent. Alono represents the marginalized backyard raisers.

Based on Alono, Abono chair, said pork importation in 2011 was much higher than imports during the Arroyo administration.

Citing government figures, he said pork importation in 2009 was 134 million kilograms of pork and importers brought in 150 million by the end.

Poultry imports in 2009 amounted to 47 million kg, which were smaller than this year's projected importation of 100 million kg.

"If the local pork industry dies, those who will be adversely affected are farmers who plant corn, rice and sugarcane ... The feeds industry will also be affected," he said.

He said imported pork is meaner to supply more prices, soon but imported meat is being sold in wet markets.

To boost the pork trade, its said the government could help backyard hog farms thrive by reducing pork imports.

Just recently, the farmers of Cancosa interrupted committee visits, with documents identifying their camps as offal, instead of a loan trust," he said.

One of those hurt by imported pork is Alfredo Malicdem, 67, a backyard raiser from Binmaley town, who said he could not sell 17 swineand pigs because the flood of imported meat has pushed pork prices down.

"The [pigs] are already five months old but the buying price of P80 per kilo [announced as live weight] is a losing proposition for the hog raiser. We are hoping that prices will be better this month," he said.

Malicdem butchered 10 pigs two weeks ago and had sold the meat to neighbors.

Locally produced meat is sold in the market at P160-170 a kilo, but frozen imported meat is sold at P80-P130 a kilo, said Anna Bengal-Lorica, a consumer current in Lingayen town. She said she does not buy imported meat.

In Bolinao town, Wilfredo Mateo, a hog farm owner, said he was also affected by imported meat. He said he was luckier because "we produce the piglets that we raise." "Otherwise, if we bought the piglets, it would be difficult as we reap the investment we made," he added. Rolando Estrella, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ NAGA CITY

Puffer fish meal kills 6

SIX FAMILIES, including three members of a farmer's family in Barangay Sabang in San Pascual, Masbate, were found dead Thursday night after supposedly eating puffer fish, police said yesterday.

The bodies were brought to the San Pascual rural health office for autopsy, Senior Insp. Melchor D. Dilospil, acting Masbate police director, said in a text message.

He identified the victims as Pedro Bello, 77, a farmer; his wife Bella, 73; son Gilbert ng, 36, gardener; Andrew Bello Jr., 19; Cristito Espina, 68; and Helen Bello, 60.

San Pascual, which is one of two towns in Burias Island, is 114 kilometers from Masbate City.

Jonas Calolos Zafra, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BAGUIO CITY

American faces charge

AN AMERICAN enlisted at Camp John Hay Golf Club (CJHGC) in Baguio City has been charged with raping a 13-year-old boy, who accused the American of molesting him also the boy told local in the golf course in place of his sick brother.

The boy, a student of the Baguio City National High School, said he was walking home inside the golf course because his mother, who did it for a living, had sick. On Sept. 2, the boy said he was confronted by Steven McDonald, golf club manager.

In his report, the boy said on that day, McDonald dragged him as he told that he had his right leg and dropped the packed lunch he was selling to soldiers in the golf course.

In his counteraffidavit, McDonald denied the accusation and asked the city prosecutor to dismiss the complaint. "While it is my duty to enforce the rules and regulations of the CJHGC, I see to it that swearing [None] is utilized use base of the Philippines as well as hurling [None] is utilized," said the American. Ryan Rimato, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Road crash kills 13

A BUS crashed into a trailer truck in a town in Sarangani province, killing 13 persons, late Thursday afternoon said.

Roy Iustin Constantino, mayor of Malungon town where the accident happened, said the bus, which was converted into a public utility vehicle, was bound for Davao City and traversing the national highway in the town when it crashed into the rear of the truck that was parked by the roadside.

Constantino said police are saying the van carried 18 passengers when it crashed into the truck.

Twelve of the passengers died on the spot, said the mayor, quoting a police report. The fatalities totality died in a hospital. Two of the dead were children.

Rosalie Z. Zamis, Inquirer Mindanao

■ ZAMBOANGA CITY

33 trafficking victims rescued

POLICE on Thursday said they rescued 33 trafficking victims, three women, who had been illegally recruited for supposed overseas jobs in Bangar, Tawi-Tawi. They included minors, relatives, studied aimed.

Senior Supt. Rosalio Jaenon, Tawi-Tawi police chief, said the victims were from Bangar and were brought to Borneo and were intercepted on Nov. 29.

He said a certain Datuk Mustafa had recruited the victims, some coming from as far as Pampanga, Bulacan and Batangas. Enquiry for more information from

John Mikaila Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Mindanao

THERE can't be a happier day for the parents of these children dressed as angels and attending lighting ceremonies for the city's Christmas tree. RONALD ANTIG

Tagum's happiest day

TAGUM CITY—Eighteen-year-old Katrina Solis makes sure she won't miss the crashing on of the lights that dot the 108.6-foot tall Christmas tree at the city's park.

Never mind if it is not the tallest anymore, after it was edged out by Puerto Princesa City's 130-foot tall Christmas tree.

"This year's holiday tree is amazing and I must say that it continues to promote more years of pride and excitement," Solis said.

When the lights were officially switched on last Nov. 16, thousands of people flocked to the city plaza to watch it.

Among these was 21-year-old Robin Labra.

Labra said the city's giant Christmas tree goes to life toward Christmas for several years now but each year, he does not miss a day watching it.

"It's different every year and it's just amazing that in every year that passes, it still causes awe gazers' bumps," he said.

The city's giant Christmas tree is made from thin sheets of steel and wires and is adorned with 100,000 bulbs, 16,000 assorted "steel lights," an 8.6-feet Bethlehem star, hundreds of decorations in the shape of flowers, snowflakes, angels, birds, trains, and musical notes and staff.

It cost the city some P700,000 to build and was designed by local architects.

Mayor Bel Uy described the giant Christmas tree as the "city's gift of hope, love and peace."

"It also encourages everyone to magnify the true meaning of Christmas," he said.

Mrs. Uy, the mayor's wife and chair of the city tourism council, said they also wanted the giant Christmas tree to draw tourists.

That's why city officials, with the private sector, also made sure that daily entertainment, such as musical presentations, was available to keep them coming back.

"We wanted to promote tourism here by holding many festivities," she said.

Mayor Uy said the giant Christmas tree does not only draw Christmas but people of other faiths as well.

"This is a rewarding statement of a peaceful city," he said.

The holiday structure will be lighted every night starting at 6 p.m.

The lights go off at 2 a.m., "when people are already tired and go home to take a rest for the next day," Mayor Uy said. *Rommel Rey Sandoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

A DAY many residents of Tagum City await and won't miss. A city employee lights up the 108-foot tree as a choir made up of young city residents sings Christmas songs. RONALD ANTIG

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"[I] DID want to be repatriated back to the Philippines. Maybe, Filipinos in Syria] still feel safe there."
—Raul Hernandez, foreign affairs spokesperson

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

God's Trouble Shooter

A true pastor to thousands of overseas domestic workers in Lebanon, 82-year-old Catholic priest Theo Vlugt is speaking up for migrants' rights

By Jos Van Woord

BEIRUT—Among the paconss of the poor is where Father Theo Vlugt feels at home. "My Big Boss says in the Bible: What you have done to the poorest of my people, you have done to me," he says, in his native Amsterdam accent.

Already in his 80's, the Jesuit priest or abouna (Arabic for "Father") recently celebrated his fifth jubilee with hundreds of his parishioners singing and dancing at the premises of his Asian Advisory Welfare Center in Lebanon. Many of them are overseas Filipino domestic workers.

"Every day I am happy that I can do this job," he tells me, eyes sparkling.

"These young ladies are like family to me. But the problems are overwhelming. Those housemaids all left the Philippines. Some of them have also been brought in from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nigeria to work in the houses of well-to-do Lebanese families. But they are widely looked down upon. They are despised and socially neglected. They are the rejected subdominants of the Arab world—horribly discriminated against and taken advantage of, often mistreated and beaten, or, sometimes even worse, every week one of their jumps from a 8-story apartment tower. One every week," he says.

Doesn't she count?

Father Theo relates that every now and then he is invited for a religious ceremony in a Christian Lebanese family for instance to lead prayers when there is something to be remembered or commemorated.

"Then I always ask: is everybody present? 'Yes, everybody is here,' they would say. And then I repeat: Really, is everyone here? 'Yes, yes, abouna, everybody is present,' they will reply. But then, after a while, a maid enters the room with the coffee. That is when I do my little theatrical act. I don't say a word, but I react most surprised by pulling a face like: I thought we just assured me that everybody is the house was present? Where did she come from all of a sudden? She's a Christian girl. Doesn't she count? Then you should see their faces looking at each other. In the abouna now trying to clear our maid is also part of our family!"

Father Theo never has a holiday. He works day and night, and every weekend. As an assistant of "Heaven's Gatekeeper", as he describes himself, he often works odd hours. The phone never stops ringing. During the day, he can often be found in the welfare center he founded in the suburbs of Beirut, or in the Saint Joseph's University, where free courses are provided for maids who want to upgrade their skills or become nurses, or to work in a kindergarten.

JUBILATION Overseas Filipino workers joined Father Theo in his jubilee celebration, thanking God for giving them a strong and fearless voice.

How employers cheat

In between, Father Theo often visits the prison, where many maids are held after they have been accused of theft. The sad reality, he says, is that all too often maids are being handed over to the police by families that try to escape payment of the maids' due salaries or repatriation costs, according to the contract, should so be provided by the employer.

"It usually all those cases nothing has been stolen. Very often the mistress of the house has put a piece of jewelry in the bag, cage of the maid. The police know the maids are being cheated," claims Father Theo.

"But it is very difficult to prove these never was any theft. The maid is put in prison during the investigation. But in the line. This then leads to deportation. In prison there are also many runaway maids. The Beirut police have them down in the streets. In prison, at least, they are not dragged into prostitution, to Beirut, the shady city of sin everywhere on the lookout."

A prison ministry

"In prison these women are brought to me in small groups, handcuffed. I have a little circle... library of those house me from the Church or from my Sunday radio program for immigrant workers. We pray together the 'Our Father...' Then I advise the maids about rights and other prisoners and on what we are doing. I explain our mission, telling them God is not only for Catholics. I give a bag of toiletries to all the prisoners, a gift from the Church. Then by the time the girls are set free and can go home, we have to see if there is money for a ticket. If not, our welfare center steps in."

Only 25% are doing well

"Of course there are families where things are fine, and where those girls are welcomed in a very friendly way. I estimate that in the about 25 percent of all cases in these cases, the girl gets a free day every week plus the agreed salary," says Father Theo. "But unfortunately the majority of cases turn out rather different."

"These poor Asian and African girls come to the Arab countries to make some money. At home they have children, or little brothers, who still have to go to school. Or their parents are ill and somebody has to pay the medical bills. That is why they are here. In their home country they are tormented by organizations that promise them a good salary and a free day every week. I always say they do not come, they are being brought. And after that they are being exploited."

Many are prisoners

Father Theo notes that many of the girls have to hand over their passports to their employers immediately after arrival. They are often not even allowed to have contact with their compatriots, sometimes they are totally isolated. They are, in fact, prisoners. They have to sleep in a room that is really a cupboard, and they have to wear and use if they will be given something to eat.

"I know of situations where girls get pregnant by their employers or his son, and then end daily hell down from the 9th floor balcony while window cleaning. To end, you know this careless girl... she accidentally fell to her death."

Rescue work

Migrant maids often flee to Father Theo's welfare center, or he gets a phone call to please come and pick up a runaway. Sometimes the Philippine minister of the home country is alerted.

The Philippine Embassy in Beirut has a special shelter which is constantly occupied by runaway maids. "Recently we had a group of seven there," relates Father Theo. "That day some 30 girls were flown back to Manila. Those are very special moments."

Father Theo has been a pastor for immigrants for the last 10 years, or since the end of the war that began with the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982. He is advised by the large Philippine community of maids in Lebanon. "When in need, those girls can always count on me," he says.

Teacher to the poor

Before he began working with migrant workers, he was headmaster for 18 years of a school in the slums of Beirut. His pupils came from all ranks of life and all religions—many Orthodox Christians, Maronites, and Muslims. The 15 years of war seemed to have lasted the longest for him. During its final stretch, tanks took position in his schoolyard. He moved to enter a target. His life's work was destroyed in a smoking pile of rubble. But he started a new school in an even poorer neighborhood in Beirut—a city that has taught him never to give up.

During those very years, he often had to make house visits at her school. Always on the road, he remembers that he was often protected by the militiamen, many of them his former pupils or members of youth clubs, who would shout, "Hold your fire, the abouna is passing."

"Many pupils from my school are now in the police or in the army. Even now, when they see me, they stop the traffic to let me cross."

Closer to God

These years of war had an enormous impact on all Lebanese—and Father Theo. "Such unspeakable poverty, so much misery, and it did not help any of us at all. Nothing was gained. So often, I had to carry one of my school children to his or her grave, a devastating experience. Hearing the way I became more of a priest than I ever was," he shares.

Before he took up his current mission for domestic workers, he visited the Philippines to understand his work. Able to understand his new target group. He visited many families of Filipino domestic workers in the Middle East.

A provocation

Although Manila has an official government ban in place on employment in Lebanon, many Filipino women still come. They enter through third countries, Father Theo notes. Official estimates put the number of Filipino workers in Lebanon at 30,000. "But in reality there are many more," Father Theo adds.

Announcing his new assignment, he had called the friends and equipped, "I am getting a promotion." Was he being promoted to Bishop or at least stepping up the clerical hierarchy? they asked. Father Theo's reply: "It is a provocation because I have found an even poorer group to serve."

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands recently decorated Father Theo for his outstanding service to humanity.

Speaking up for migrants

Doesn't he ever want to return to his home country?

Replies Father Theo: "My country is here, in Lebanon. Here, nobody speaks up for the immigrants and I am glad I can do this job. I would not know what to do in Holland. The best moment of my visits to Holland is always when the plane that takes me back to Lebanon touches down in Beirut. This is my home, here is my mission."

Jos van Woord is an editor and columnist of the Dutch daily De TELEGRAAF. *During the war he was the paper's correspondent in Beirut. This article first appeared in* De Telegraaf

SPECIAL T-SHIRTS Fr. Theo's Filipino "family members" even had special t-shirts made for his 50th jubilee.

HAPPY A Filipino photographer who works with the United Nations forces in the south of Lebanon, Jun Mata, shot this picture of Father Theo and his family of migrant workers and supporters.

MUSICAL PARISHIONERS Filipinos are always ready to provide the music and singing in Church services in Beirut or elsewhere.

Editor Tobbysie G. Melendrez
Associate Editor Francis T. J. Dalisay

Late SPORTS

Beckham awes Pinoys as Galaxy trip Azkals

Ex-England skipper's curling goal fuels LA

By Cedelf Tupas

INSPIRED by a sublime performance from David Beckham, the Los Angeles Galaxy walloped the Philippine Azkals, 6-1, last night before a huge crowd at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila.

Beckham scored the opening goal—a trademark curling right-footed strike from outside of the box in the 39th minute—to spark the Galaxy to victory against a FIFA ranks side that looked threatening in the first half.

The crowd appeared stunned, perhaps even awed, at the way Beckham—so effortless and so precise—curled the ball, finding the top left corner over the flailing arms of Azkals goalkeeper Edward Escalpazo.

Mike Magan doubled the lead in the 58th with an expertly taken strike from just outside the box, following a brilliant layoff from captain Landon Donovan.

The Azkals' only goal came via Phil Younghusband get the lowdown response through as the Filipino-British striker unleashed a left-footed rocket.

Josh Saunders and Robbie Keane also scored for the victory, who extended a 2-1 halftime lead as the Azkals backline grew weary in the second half.

Fraser struck in the 47th minute from a Beckham free kick, before Adam Cristman scored two goals, including in the 62nd minute off a cheeky nutmeg.

But the strikes on the pitch took a backseat upon the arrival of beating champion Manny Pacquiao, who came into the stadium early in the second half to watch the game regardless each his wife Jinkee and their children.

Beckham was substituted in the 75th minute. When he left the pitch, he approached Pacquiao at the VIP area to give him his jersey.

Beckham praised the Azkals for their performance, particularly in the first half where the Philippines created more chances.

"I think there were many players in the team that got ahead," said Beckham, who sat alongside Chiefly Lilly Gong and Younghusband at the post-match press conference. "There were moments in the first half where they could have equalized."

Beckham also kept his promise to Younghusband during the pre-match press conference in his quiet last months years sharing the post-match interview with reporters.

The English icon had actually left the press conference, but to the surprise of everyone inside the media room, he returned and trolled Younghusband for points.

"David Beckham calling me to sit a press conference is a dream come true," said Younghusband.

DAVID Beckham bends it like no one else does, curling a shot for the goal that kicked off the LA Galaxy scoring spree.

Beckham touched by kids' plight

DSWD Undersecretary David Bersamin, on a brief visit to the Philippines, met and was touched by children living and working on the streets.

The football star visited on Friday a center in a Manila suburb and met street children aged from 7 to 17. The center is being assisted by Social Welfare and Development.

"At a father, I can't imagine how life was for these young children living and working on the streets. They are exposed to so many threats and dangers, and an ongoing war on the homes in life—having people around who love and guide them," he said after meeting some of the children.

Some 250,000 children are living and working on the streets where they are exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation. United works to help these vulnerable children leave the streets and get back into a caring, supportive environment either with their parents, other relatives, or temporary centers.

Beckham was welcomed to the center by the manager, Sister Flo-ree, who explained to him the profile and background of the 100 children living in the facility.

"Here we give the children guidance, care and opportunities to learn new skills. But the real focus is on helping them integrate back into their communities, with their families or relatives where a caring home environment can take them. For we all in their lives," Flores said.

Beckham was taken around the center by the children themselves. He took part in sewing session and new classes and was entertained by an impromptu sing-and-dance session.

Throughout his visit, the children helped him learn about the reality of their lives.

Beckham was visibly touched by the experience. "While many of these children have been through tough experiences in their young lives, like any child they still have hopes and dreams. The staff here have a huge responsibility and they are doing an amazing job giving these children the love, guidance and care they've been missing," he said.

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Editor Abelardo S. Llamzon

Lead-free paint for city playgrounds

Manila mayor orders all swings, see-saws, monkey bars checked

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim on Saturday ordered a probe into reports of lead content in paint used in the city's playgrounds soon as he directed his officials to search for paint free of the chemical for use in other facilities.

Lim directed his chief of staff and media bureau chief of business and city administrator Jay Marzon to form a team, composed of the city hall's disaster unit, to conduct an investigation and to come up with recommendations should problems be found.

Lim cited reports indicating that lead exposure is high if the paint has been scraped and that there is no threat from lead content if the paint is new.

The mayor instructed the two city officials to "scout for lead-free paints to ensure the safety of the children using the said equipment in the city's public playgrounds."

He tasked the team to be formed by the city officials to ensure constant monitoring of the supposedly affected playgrounds by repainting of the see-saws, monkey bars, and swings as these would be useless unless if necessary.

"We have to safeguard the health of the children patronizing the playgrounds so I have ordered the search for lead-free paints," Lim said.

The mayor also tapped barangay officials and residents to help monitor the public playgrounds by immediately reporting to city hall if paint on the equipment have already started chipping off, pointing out that the said scenes demonstrate are the best source of information.

The mayor's order followed a raid last week by 3rd district Councilor Numero Lim who sought in a resolution filed Thursday a lead hazard assessment on the city's public playgrounds.

The ordinance's resolution was based on a finding by environmental group, EcoWaste Coalition, that 55 percent of their samples taken off equipment in five Manila playgrounds yielded lead levels up to 200,700 parts per million.

EcoWaste had tested the paint on 20 see-saws, monkey bars, and swings in Blind Park, Children's Playground in Remy, Dimas Aral, Quirino Ave., Pandacan, Plaza de la Virgen, West Concord St., Pandacan, and Dakota Playground, Antonio St., Malate. It was discovered by the group that 16 of the paint samples tested positive for lead content, far exceeding the 90-ppm safety limit.

"Why is the city allowing children to be in danger? The children may be having fun but they don't know their playgrounds are toxic," the activist said. ■

Report of A(H1N1) flu virus cases in Valenzuela belied

By Kristine Felice Mangunay

CALLING the figures "unverified," a public official belied a recent report from the Department of Health that said that there were confirmed cases of A(H1N1) in Valenzuela City.

In a phone interview, Alma Mejia, Valenzuela City chief public information officer, told the Inquirer that as per the records of the local epidemiology and surveillance unit, there were no confirmed cases of the influenza virus in any of the city's 32 barangays.

But hrs, the DOH Epidemiology Bureau said Valenzuela accounted for five of the recorded 130 laboratory-confirmed A(H1N1) cases in Metro Manila, from Jan. 1 to May 31, 2011.

The center said Muntinlupa accounted for the majority of the cases, or 83. Pasig, it said, had five confirmed cases, while at least four were recorded in Marikina, two each in Makati, Malabon and Taguig, and one each in Mandaluyong and Quezon City.

The DOH also said there were still suspected cases which are subject for verification, Mejia told the Inquirer.

The usual discrepancies between records at the national and local level have brought about complaints on the part of some local officials, according to a high-ranking official from the city government who did not want to be identified.

The latter, the source said, believe that they should be informed "immediately" of the results of any monitoring of diseases done at the national level.

The source said that this was to allow city officials to verify the information first before it is leaked to the media.

The source added that several local health officials had already requested a meeting with Health Secretary Enrique Ona for this issue to be addressed.

Going QC way today? Take alternate routes

By Julie Pl. Aurelio

IF YOU'RE going to Quezon City or if you live in the city and plan to go to other places within the city this morning, please read this first before driving off to your destinations.

The 4th Quezon City International Marathon will be held today and city officials are advising motorists to take alternate routes to avoid anticipated traffic due to the marathon.

Some 1,000 policemen and traffic personnel from the city government and Metro Manila Development Authority have been tasked to assist motorists.

The marathon will start at 6 a.m. and is expected to last until noon. The route will cover major roads.

The northbound lane of the Commonwealth Avenue will be closed from the Quezon Memorial Circle to the La Mesa Dam Dropoff in Fairview.

The portion of the Elliptical Road in front of Quezon City Hall has been partially closed since Saturday.

The C.P. Garcia Avenue in the University of the Philippines campus will be closed to traffic.

Full road closure will take effect at 3 a.m. today.

Vehicles will not be allowed on the northbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue during the marathon.

Those coming from North, East, Quezon and Visayas Avenues bound for Fairview are advised to take the counterflow line at Commonwealth Avenue's northbound lane.

Mindanao Avenue via Quirino Highway or Tandang Sora will be designated as alternative routes for motorists coming from QMC going to Fairview.

For vehicles going to QMC from Fairview, they may take Mindanao Avenue via Dahlia, Cleveland and Araneta Roads.

Barangay public security officers will be also tasked to oversee traffic on secondary and feeder roads.

CAROLING FOR PEACE
Artists/activists in members of Concerned Artists of the Philippines who held a public caroling in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila, on Saturday to press for the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front.

Arroyo not the only famous accused afflicted with colitis

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not the only famous accused who has colitis; the other inmate is even held in a regular jail cell and not in a hospital room.

A week before Mrs. Arroyo, now Pampanga representative, was diagnosed with the ailment, rapid rape suspect Antonio Sy was found to have a form of this intestinal inflammation due to his seizures.

Sy is in cell 13 next to a Quezon City court, Dr. Renato Abaya said the 29-year-old accused, accused of six rape incidents, was also found to have diverticular colitis.

Arroyo is afflicted with an unspecified form of colitis as well. She is still confined at the posh St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City.

On the other hand, Sy is given his check-up at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City only on orders of a Quezon City court and is always whisked back to his jail cell.

JASON Sy

Heavy guard

Sy is under heavy guard as the Special Intensive Care Area of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

For her part, the Camp's provident is also under custody of the Southern Police District already recuperating at the ILMC's presidential suite and not a regular jail cell.

Abaya, a surgeon affiliated with the QMMC, had testified before Judge Lisardo Cortes of Regional Trial Court Branch 84 that colitis, or inflammation of the colon, is a general term and has many forms.

The physician recommended the reversal of Sy's colostomy after following an inflammation in the colon which is suspected to have been caused, in part, by the colostomy.

The colostomy done after Sy's intestines were damaged as a detainee's inmates him to defecate through a bag attached to his stomach and not through his anus.

In his testimony last month, Abaya said Sy appears to be suffering from "diverticular colitis."

He defined this particular form of colitis to be the inflammation of the pouch-intestinal tract, caused by the deprivation of nutrients to the lining of the deteriorated tract.

Reversal

The doctor explained that by performing a reversal of the colostomy, the infection may be resolved.

The colitis was discovered after Sy doctors performed a colonoscopy on him, to which a camera is inserted into the anus to probe the intestines.

This is the same procedure done on Arroyo after the former president complained of the flare since the afternoon of Nov. 25. She was given antibiotics through intravenous drip to combat the ailment.

The bouts of diarrhea were accompanied by cramps allegedly caused by the "food that she eats while suffering from colitis as well.

Her legal counsels have cited her colitis as a justification for delaying her transfer to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the Quezon City, at least until the colitis subsides.

Woman who just withdrew money from bank shot dead by thieves …

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 37-YEAR-OLD single mother was gunned down today after noon by one of three motorcycle-riding robbers who took the P100,000 cash she just withdrew from a bank in Manila.

The Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section on the scene released a computer-generated facial composite of the shooter, based on descriptions given by witnesses to the killing of Gloria Mendoza, of Intersection, Barrio de Maria, in Paco.

PCO Jupiter Tapanera, of the MPD homicide section, said the heinous crime Mendoza had been shot by one of the robbers-runs-after-they had just got hold of her shoulder bag containing the cash.

Hands shot

"He (robber) shot her hands as she struggled to get her bag because she was fighting him off. While she was lying on the pavement and the suspect already had her bag, the robber shot her two more times before boarding a getaway motorcycle," Tapanera pointed out.

Mendoza was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at the Sta. Ana Hospital from three bullet wounds in the hands and in the chest.

Case investigator SPO2 Benito Caballon said that the incident happened at around 1 p.m., Friday, along Pedro Gil Street in Paco.

Caballon revealed that several minutes before the incident, Mendoza withdrew P100,000 from a bank's Sta. Ana branch and had boarded a passenger jeepney home.

She had just alighted from the PUJ and was walking to her house when a man grabbed her shoulder bag from behind. Mendoza struggled and tried to wrest away her bag from the man, who pulled a .45 caliber pistol on her.

Resisted

Caballon said that despite the gun aimed at her, Mendoza still resisted prompting the robber to shoot her hands. The gunshot wound caused the victim to reel and fall on the pavement.

As soon as the gun-toting man had obtained the shoulder bag her friend or the woman, who was then nursing her wounded hands, came in the chest before running towards his two companions who were riding tandem on a red Kawasaki motorcycle not on the street.

Witnesses said the incident only caught a glimpse of the numbers 8985 of the license plate before the motorcycle sped away.

Tapanera told the heinous that Mendoza had left behind a 6-year-old daughter and had withdrawn the sum from the bank for house repairs.

"She (Mendoza) had to job and relied on a sibling abroad for her and her daughter's subsistence," he revealed, adding that the robber did not have to kill her because he had already taken the money.

Based on descriptions given by the witnesses of the gunman, the suspect is between 35 and 40 years old, at least five-foot-three inches tall, dark-skinned, of heavy build, clad in a blue shirt worn over maong pants.

Tipped off

Tapanera said that the suspects may have been tipped off by the amount of money the victim withdrew prompting them to follow her from the bank.

Mendoza's body was brought to the St. Yves funeral parlor for autopsy and subsequent as MPD operatives conduct follow-up operations for the suspects' identification and arrest.

… another killed while about to ride jeepney

A 41-YEAR-OLD woman was shot in the head and killed Friday night just as she was about to board a passenger jeepney on her way home in Manila.

Marilyn Espanillo, of Dalue Street in Tondo, was declared dead by attending doctors at the Ilhey Atkinson Hospital several minutes after she was brought to the medical facility for the treatment of a bullet wound to the back of the head.

SPO1 Bhanie Ando, of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section, said the incident happened at around 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Zamora and Chacon Streets in Tondo.

Ando said that before the incident, Espanillo had flagged down a passenger jeepney plying the Divisoria-North Bay Boulevard route and was about to board the vehicle when the assailant struck.

Without any provocation, the man drew a handgun and shot Espanillo in the back of the head before fleeing.

The woman slumped forward on the jeepney's floor boarded and was brought to the nearest hospital by bystanders. She was pronounced dead at around 7:47 p.m. by doctors with the bullet still lodged in her skull.

Ando ruled out robbery as a motive behind the slay as the victim's belongings, a brown shoulder bag containing several personal effect jewelry, her mobile phone, and identification cards, remained intact.

The body was brought to the Cruz funeral parlor for autopsy and subsequent as MPD operatives conduct follow-up operations for the gunman's arrest.

Antonio J. Ambrado

MANILA City officials with check payage hands like this one found at the Ma'ati Park for local content in paint used on equipment there.

Burglars flee with P2M loot from trader

By Julie M. Aurelio

TURISTAS broke into the home of a businesswoman in Quezon City and exited away more than P2 million in cash and valuables, according to police.

The complainant, Andrea Candelario, told police that the robbery was only discovered when household members arrived from work on Thursday night.

Case investigator PO3 Madeline Jimenez said the burglars barged into Candelario's home in Barangay Sikatuna Village.

The woman lost P500,000 in cash, $5,000 in cash, P1 million worth of jewelry, a MacBook Pro worth P90,000; two Canon cameras worth P120,000; a iPads worth P48,000; an iPhone pegged at P30,000; a South Face travel bag worth P7,000; and a Gadgets laptop bag costing P7,000.

Police are checking reports that six men, including a child, were involved in the burglary.

Jimenez said a neighbor of the victim was able to record footage of the burglary from his home's closed circuit television camera.

The footage showed a dark colored sports utility vehicle parked in front of Candelario's house which was reportedly used by the suspects.

Candelario's household members discovered from work at around 5 p.m. Thursday and discovered that the front door was forced open.

Investigators also found that the master bedroom was also ransacked.

Lead-free paint for city playgrounds

From page A13

mum said, in a phone interview.

He said officials were either "unaware" of the toxic risks or scrimping because lead-free paint was more expensive.

"The lead levels found in some equipment are simply mind-blowing … Playgrounds should be safe from all sources of harm, including chemicals that can impair a child's healthy development," Cuna said. With a report by Jaymee T. Gamil

Road potholes patching work set

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways-National Capital Region will conduct potholes patching and other minor infrastructure repair work in four Metro Manila cities in the country over the weekend and on Monday.

DPWH, in a statement, said it hoped "to minimize traffic congestion brought about by the undersigned and will ask motorists, increasing number of motor vehicles, coupled with the rainy and wet of pavement due to road potholes and cracks through maintenance activity."

In Pasay City, the potholes patching will be done along NIA Road and Domestic Road, particularly at the Tambo Bridge, as well as along MIA Road corner Andrew Avenue.

In Quezon City, similar potholes patching activity will also be undertaken at Aguinaldo Roads covering Regalado Avenue and Fairview Avenue.

Portions of Edsa will also undergo crack and joint sealing work, the DPWH said.

There will also be similar work along a section of Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City, along the northbound lane of Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City, and along Gen. A. Bautista Avenue in Makati City.

In Caloocan City, DPWH repair crew carry out the sealing of reflective cracks along Macarthur Highway covering A. Bonifacio and F.T. Road.

BizNews Asia

THE LAKESHORE MADE IT FOR THE 3RD TIME IN BIZNEWS ASIA WHO'S WHO IN THE REAL ESTATE!

The Lakeshore is 2011 hectare property with a 11 hectare manmade lake owned and developed by Central Country Estate, Inc. made it once again in the prestigious circle of BizNews Asia's Best of the Best in 2011 which also includes: SM, Ayala's, Megaworld, Rockey Mendez's and MPIR 7 to name a few. Alvin Nicolas & Hangin President and CEO accepted the award for The Lakeshore.

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Edna Lorenne B. Daños

The WORLD

Pakistan tells troops after Nato strike: You can fire back at once

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's commanders in the wild Afghan border region can return fire if under attack without seeking for permission, the Army chief said on Friday, a policy change that could stoke tensions after Saturday's Nato strike killed 24 Pakistani troops.

Exactly what happened in the attack is unclear. Two US officials told Reuters only ballistics were that Pakistani officials had closed the Nato air strike, unaware they had troops in the area, a Pakistani official denied this.

The attack sparked fury in Pakistan and further complicated US-led efforts to ease a crisis in relations with Islamabad, still reeling at a surge US raid in May which killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and mobilise the region before foreign combat troops leave Afghanistan in 2014.

"I do not want there to be any doubt in the minds of any commander or any level about the rules of engagement," Chief of Army Staff Gen. Ashfaq Kayani said at a commanders on Friday.

"In case of any attack, you have complete liberty to respond forcefully using all available resources. You do not need any permission for this."

A military source explained that this amounted to a change in the rules for Pakistani forces guarding the Western border against militant movements to and from Afghanistan.

"In the past, we were only guarding ourselves or reacting against militants," said the source, who requested anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media.

"We have given our posts some more space to respond. If they are under attack, they should not wait for orders from above on whether to return fire or not."

The increase in autonomy for local commanders is likely to raise tensions in the unruly and mountainous border region, which is porous and poorly marked. Militants and orthodox alike move back and forth daily.

"There are certain inherent risks in the delegation of authority," said defence analyst and retired general Talat Masood. "There could be unintended consequences."

Exactly what happened at the Pakistani posts along an unruly and poorly defined border is still unclear.

Pakistan said the attack was unprovoked, with officials calling it an act of blatant aggression—an accusation the top US military officer flatly rejected in an interview with Reuters.

Two US officials told Reuters on Friday that preliminary information from the ongoing investigation indicated Pakistani officials at a border coordination center had closed the air strike, unaware they had troops in the area. Reuters

Iran envoys expelled from UK arrive home

TEHRAN, IRAN—Iranian diplomats expelled from London in retaliation for attacks on British compounds in Tehran have arrived home, the official IRNA news agency reports, sending Iran's most serious diplomatic rift with the West in decades.

Almost 150 hard-liners waiting with flowers inclement were gathered at Tehran's Mehrabad airport early Saturday to give the roughly two-dozen diplomats and their families a hero's welcome. But the Iranian government, apparently opposed to any high-profile display that could worsen the fallout, took the diplomats off unseen from a back-door, officiating Iran's worst international political rift.

Tuesday's storming of the British Embassy and residential complex—which the British government alleges was sanctioned by Tehran's ruling elite—deepened Iran's isolation, which has grown over the disputed nuclear program. Sanctions which has grown over the disputed nuclear program which the West says its nuclear program.

Germany, France and the United Kingdom have recalled their ambassadors, and Italy and Spain summoned Iranian envoys to condemn the attacks.

Iran's government to the most serious diplomatic fallout with the West since the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy after the Islamic Revolution, and some Iranian political figures have voiced doubts over whether anything can be gained from examining the diplomatic fallout.

The obstruction of Saturday's welcome ceremony reflected the disagreements between hard-liners and the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, which opposed downgrading relations with Britain and condemned the attack on the embassy.

Iran's relations with Britain have become increasingly strained in recent months, largely due to tensions over Tehran's refusal to halt uranium enrichment, a key component of its nuclear program. The process is of deep concern internationally as it can be used to produce material for nuclear weapons in addition to energy fuel. Iran insists its program is entirely peaceful.

Along with the United States and other countries in Europe, Britain has backed sanctions that have so far failed to push Iran to halt its enrichment program.

Hunt's move in Iran have said the embassy attack was an outpouring of the wrath of the Iranian people who believe Britain is a hostile country seeking to damage and overthrow the Islamic Republic. Mohammadian, a representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, praised the attackers, saying they had targeted the "epicenter of sedition."

Iran's hard-line conservative watchdog, the Guardian Council, approved a parliamentary bill today requiring the Iranian government to downgrade relations with Britain. The government opposed it but said it would carry out the law.

The diplomatic freeze from Europe, including key trading partner Germany, further isolates Iran just months after a report by the UN nuclear watchdog agency that alleged Iran was making entries toward mastering critical elements for atomic weapons. AP

Sign of hope: US jobless rate drops to 8.6%

ROBERT HOW the US economy appears to be getting better, even as the rest of the world is looking worse.

As the leader of the European debt crisis, lingering instability in the oil-rich Middle East and concerns about a Chinese economic slowdown, the US unemployment rate unexpectedly dropped last month to 8.6 percent, its lowest level in two and a half years. The Labor Department also said that the nation's employers added 120,000 jobs in November and that job growth for the previous two months was better than initially reported.

That looks like good news for President Barack Obama as he heads into the 2012 presidential election—especially since just a few months ago the end seemed to be nigh.

"If you go back to August, all sorts of people were telling us that the economy was headed straight into recession," said Peter Ashworth, senior US economist at Capital Economics. "Since that point, we've become more and more worried about the eurozone and other areas of the global economy but somehow, at least for the moment, the US economy seems to be struggling all that off."

Even so, part of the reason the jobless rate fell to less was that 315,000 unemployed workers simply stopped applying for jobs. And confidence in the economy seems to have been down this summer, the face of the fragile recovery is still and on an actual—especially that upbeat—trends.

New York Times News Service

WorldBriefs

UN rights forum condemns Syria; Shell pulls out

GENEVA—The main UN human rights forum condemned Syria's crackdown on protests on Friday and Royal Dutch Shell shut down oil work from because of US sanctions, signs of the deepening isolation of President Bashar al-Assad. "The 47-member rights forum overwhelmingly voted to adopt a resolution put forward by the European Union, condemning "gross and systematic" rights violations. Russia and China, which have in the protected Assad by vetoing measures at the UN Security Council, were among the four countries to vote against it. The United States, which voted in favor, welcomed the result of the UN emergency session held on Syria this year. "The incidence we have seen leaves no doubt about the complicity of Syrian authorities and provides a very strong basis for accountability to go forward in other institutions where that is their mandate," US ambassador Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe told Reuters. Reuters

US church bans mixed marriages, spurs uproar

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—When Sheila Hamilton brought her black boyfriend to her family's all-white church in rural Kentucky, she thought nothing of it. She and Tobe Dilkore's stepdaughter had been together three years at school, and he were using before the congregation during one service. Then in August, a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church told Hamilton's father that Dilkore, who is from Zimbabwe, couldn't sing there anymore. And last Sunday, in a moment that seems from another time, church members voted 5-0 to bar mixed-race couples from joining the congregation. The policy has drawn a firestorm of criticism in just a few days and sent church leaders scrambling to overturn it, which could happen as soon as Sunday. The executive secretary of the church's national organization said he has been inundated with angry phone calls, and had an inch-high stack of e-mails printed out on his desk. AP

Australia's ruling party endorses gay marriage

SYDNEY—Australia's ruling party voted on Saturday to endorse same-sex marriage, a reversal of its long-standing position that has split political views on the issue of gay marriage looming legislation in the country. The impact of the vote at the conference left Labor Party's administration was diluted by the party's endorsement of a motion by Prime Minister Julia Gillard to allow lawmakers to make a "conscience vote" on bills attempting to legalize gay marriage. That means legislators can vote on the issue according to their personal beliefs rather than being forced to vote in line with the party's official position. Gillard's government holds a razor-thin majority in Parliament. AP

HK Open: Paguntan trails Spain's Quiros by 6

HONG KONG—Jovic Paguntan fired another two-under par 68 as he trailed Gonzalo Alvaro Quiros by six strokes in the USD Hong Kong Open yesterday. Paguntan, who had eight bogeys and five birdies in 13 holes on the front nine, finished at 206. The big-hitting Quiros, who has held the post-tour two-day title, fired a 62* in a bogey-free effort to put one-stroke clear of Ryan Hedges of Sweden, who carded a 66, in the $2.75-million championship sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour. **Asian Tour Notes**

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PH football books mainstream ticket

By Jaymico W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Azkals turned football into a sport with a major cult following. But with the visit of David Beckham and the LA Galaxy, the sport has taken giant strides in popularity, heralding its entry into mainstream entertainment in a huge way.

"I think everyone has seen across the world how football changes lives," said Beckham, the former English captain who, since retiring to Miami last Thursday, has chartered the Filipinos with his compatriots and clashing locks.

"It has definitely done that in Europe for hundreds of years, it's doing that in the US, and obviously, as coming here proves that the game is getting bigger."

Interestingly, frontman coach Bryan Arena knows first-hand a couple (literally) between the LA Galaxy and the Philippine Azkals can push football into a mainstream long dominated by basketball.

Arena and the rest of tonight all-comrades in the US relied under the limelight for a long time until the likes of Beckham invaded Major League Soccer.

"Just yeah hard and be proud of your national team," said Arena. "I was with the United States team for a number of years and we closed the doors and we're qualifying now to a regular basis for the World Cup.

"Once we were—with enough—in the global sport of football, known as a small country. Now we've grown to as a big country in the sport and there's no reason why that cannot be shared here."

The arrival of Beckham and the newly crowned MLS champion Galaxy decisively ups the ante.

The sporting coup, clearly, validates even more football's FOOTBALL, A27

THE PAIR of David Beckham (right) and the LA Galaxy feat her boosts football's popularity in the country. AARON FAVILA

Laguna hosts Batang Pinoy S. Luzon leg

THE PSBA bunch of qualifiers who will compete in the Batang Pinoy national finals will be known starting today with the unfolding of the Southern Tagalog qualifying tournament in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Laguna Sports Complex, which will host twenty sports events athletes and swimming, will be the main stadium of the four-day tournament.

Archery and 3-on-3 basketball will also be played at the said complex. Boxing, badminton, chess, judo, wrestling, table tennis, taekwondo, lawn tennis and weightlifting are the other events in the fifth and final regional qualifying round of the grassroots program for athletes 15 years old and below.

Gold and silver medalists in all sports, except lawn tennis, will join qualifiers from Mindoro, Visayas, Northern Luzon and NCR in the National Finals slated Dec. 13 to 17 in Naga City.

Laguna is fielding 376 athletes who will compete in all events, except judo.

Bata, Amit retain World Mixed Doubles crown

TEAM Philippines made up of legend Elvira "Bata" Reyes and fellow world champion Frederick Amit, retained the World Mixed Doubles title Friday by beating a crack United States team in Ningbo, China.

In unison and dominated in the country's expertise in the game of pool, Reyes and Amit reasserted world championship primacy Archer and Jeanette Lee, 30-24, to regain the crown they first won two years ago in Lille, Quinton Cup.

Reyes is coming off a bronze medal finish (versus London) in the recent Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia, while Amit won many times with a silver in the Worlds event.

Their victory once again put the duo in the spotlight with focus becoming the oldest player-combination at the age of 56. They pocketed the top prize of $25,000 (about P45,000).

Reyes and Amit, playing for Pagan Sports of Antero "Pando" Perez, forged into the finals with a dominant 9-8 win over hosts Li Hewen and Chen Siming in the semifinals.

"We hope we made the country proud of us once again," said Reyes, whose legend in the sport is unlimited only by his magical shots and winning dances. "We offer that to our countrymen."

The duo, if win crowd critics to top from after failing to defend her two SEA Games golds in Indonesia, and losing early in the recent World Women's 10-ball championships.

Two notes ago in the maiden tournament, Reyes and Amit beat Siamese Chirthe Wilkinson and Ian Ji pack for the title.

Another Filipino pair in Lee Van Corbran and JOE Gaston double gold winner Ito Rafols took part in the competition but had no such out other bowing to a Chinese pair.

Sixteen teams from around the world saw action in the high-level competition, including Tommy Dodds and Kelly Fisher of United Kingdom, Mike Tamimura and Mariko Nishikido of Finland, Chen Peng-yang and Tsai Pei-chun of Chinese Taipei, and Canada's Lin Hsiao and Fu Fenfeng. Most Anthony Reyes

MVP15 and Amit - Champions again

Arcilla seals PCA second round clash vs Parpan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ANDRES Arcilla showed new resolution Friday to end a record ninth title after blanking qualifier Henry Bautista, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday the end toward all the favorites into the second round of the men's singles of the Philippine Columbian Association Open tennis championships.

Making through the endless and slicing forces for his fourth win in the event after two days imposed his dumbfounds with the PCA to make short a day count to move on against a rising star in Kyle Parpan.

"I'm in my first condition because of the training camp for the Southeast Asian Games," said Arcilla today, along with Cecil Mamiit, Treat Huey, Rafael Gonzales and Jason Patrombon, who bagged calls in the hours, and games' team event.

Arcilla, who fashioned out the contest, can't win in less than an hour, said he is confident of going all the way to the title which he won in 2002, 2006 and 2007-2008.

Parpan, a former age-group campaigner, advanced against Eric Oliveros in .6-2, 6-4.

Also winning in the first round was French John Tiwon who took out Andrew Joshua Cane, 6-2, 6-4.

In the Women's tournament Quarter-round campaigner who took 2 in the Pepsi Women's of Tennis Cristy Ann Dalere Palomacion improved her will on SEA Games teammate Marian Jade Capadocia, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, to get through the girls singles finals against last week's champion Maricris Bebol of Bolacan.

PBA(R) Dwayne Jack Li of Barangay Ginebra is shut by Purefoods Chunkeys of B-Meg in last night's match.

On their own, Llamados nip Energy

By Mannny B. Castillo

PUT to a test of character by its own coach, Blueblog lived up to their survival Sunday Bull, 95-93, for a seventh straight win that put the Llamados in the hunt for a top five slot in the PBA Philippine Cup playoffs at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Rookie Mark Barroca hit a twisting jump with 4.9 seconds left for the marginal basket and the Llamados avoided suffering their fourth as Willie Miller barely missed the potential game-winning triple at the buzzer (99-96 being 96-96).

It looked like disposing of the Energy would be a breeze for the Llamados, who had a 16-point fourth quarter lead, the last at 79-63 with nine minutes left, only for Willie Miller to wrestle it back that 95-89 and a Miller jumper with 13.7 seconds left.

"I trained the players to work their way through it," maintained coach Tim Cone said. "I could have called a couple of timeouts when Rando Bell was making a run and I left it in their hands and they did it."

It May tied idle Petron Blaze at 9-4 and is a catch to close out in eliminations round schedule with a 10-4 slate as the Llamados duels with out-of-it-all Shopinas.com later in the week.

Barroca said the Tropang Texters will still not let up at the end of the eliminations round and this is what gives Cone the optimism that his wards will have a shot at making a twice-to-beat privileges.

"It's either Petron ends up with five losses or Talk 'N Text ends up with four," Cone said.

Rain or Shine, meanwhile, looks poised to snap a four-game losing streak today when the Elasto Painter battle winless Shopinas.com on the 4:15 p.m. contest.

Ronnapee Coseteng and Mendoza, squadcoming off victories on Friday clash in the 2:00 p.m. contest with the Tim Flange and are looking to improve on their playoff ranking but also nothing to watch the 80NB win in franchise history.

Only Jose Miguel Pelaez has never tasted losses since the Kings ends 1-1995.

Scores:

Game 1: Barroca 16, Ayo 2, Ilaya 6, Dela Cruz 6, Fajardo 6, Pinto 7, Mendoza 8, Jay Rodriguez 2, Abad 2, Arboleda 2, Miller 20, Sangalang 6, Bell 16, Total 95

Game 2: Barroca 16, Ayo 2, Ilaya 6, Dela Cruz 6, Fajardo 6, Pinto 7, Mendoza 8, Jay Rodriguez 2, Abad 2, Arboleda 2, Miller 20, Sangalang 6, Bell 16, Total 95

Quarters: 19-16, 40-31, 72-63, 95-93

64 entries dispute 2011 'Balbakan' 11-stag crown

FROM a record field of 4,427 participants, only 64 will contest the 2011 SPCB Emmanuel Balbakan 11-stag Derby" on Monday at the Rizal City Coliseum.

Fight time is 11:00, with 130 matches on tap.

Seeing action in their first Emmanuel Balbakan are Alfred Uy, Angelo Abad, Boy Valentino, Baby Boy Sangma, Steve Gino Edwards of Bacon and Dennis Jon Mercio.

Vanessa and Mendoza will be represented by Al Gusto, Baby Abello, Elvin Jackson, Mario Gomez, Arthur Javier, Ariel Soldon, Jun Alcoba, Ernesto Salapan, Quinnaco by Jerry Gonga, Mayor Dan and Bong Fortunato.

Humble Riches banners Philtolo cast

IMO-YEAR-OLD filly mercurius Humble Riches put her unbeaten record on the line in the six-race genre in the P5-million Philtolo Arevalo Grand Championship at the Manila and Cebu Leisure Park in Naic, Cavite today.

Humble Riches, to be ridden by Mel Talosa, will go for a seventh straight win over 1,600 metres, her first outing over that distance.

Looming as her strongest adversary is Rosen Hills' Steel Creation, a fighting runner-up to Flagship Fury in the 2010 Philtolo Cup Arevalo Trophy and to be shipped in from race.

3rd QCIM: Ethiopian seeks to stop Kenyan domination

A 25-YEAR-OLD Ethiopian, who claims to have a personal best time of two hours and 10 minutes, aim to finally crack the Kenyan domination of the Quezon City International Marathon when its third edition unfolds at the Quezon Memorial Circle today.

Ayenew Bekele Jaras, who finished eighth in the 2010 Casablanca Marathon in Morocco with a clocking of 2:13.10, hopes to the runner-up bauble of the Kenyan born in the men's division of the event presented by SM Development Corp. (SMDC).

"Based on Lemi's times alone, we may expect a new record in the men's side," said lawyer Rudy Fernandez, chair of the organizing Executive Runners Club of the Philippines (Inspire).

Rose one of the 10 top spots in the men's race last year were secured by Kenyans, led by Robert Kiogora, who logged 2:22:52, ousting countryman and inaugural champion Sidney Rayshumba's time of 2:23.03.

Lydia Asenech Rotto will be back to defend her women's title in the stunning spectacle that counts as multi-pronged the Lycanon, ABC-5000, dubbed, NBA Asaro Review, Akoya Sports, MBC, DZSR, DWBR, Star, Multi-Sports, Total Fitness and Power Runners.

Rotto clocked 2:54.08 in capping the women's title, outgoing the previous mark of compatriot Doreen Kilaka (2:58.39) who topped the first edition.

Bouncing the local challenge are Rio Siongco and Michelle Gilbacion, the top Filipino performers last year.

Siongco finished 11th overall (2:51:36) while Gilbacion found herself on the dotted' side by placing seventh (3:15:46) behind six Kenyans.

Face-off of Top Calibre Teams for UFL Cup Finals Set

Tough Truck Challenge unfolds today at Clark

THE HUNT for the coveted Off-Road Driver of the Year crown is on an exciting climax today in the 2011 Colt 4x4 Philippine Tough Truck Challenge Year 11 at the Clark International Speedway.

Organized by 199 Off-Road Riders, a field of 79 drivers from Baguio, Bocos Sur, Pangasinan, Metro Baja, Davao and Cagayan de Oro have confirmed their participation.

Among the top favorites are CDO's Raymond Jones, two-time champion Thaddeus Lapointe of Davao 4x4Spiders and Eastern Bayanan of Dipolog Unlimited while Northern Luzon will be topbilled by former drivers of the Star Red Shirt and Blazing Cobalts of Manila.

Tuason Racing School sets Race Day on Dec. 11

ARCHER before gathering of thoroughbred racing enthusiasts as the Tuason Racing School stages the TRS Race Day on Dec. 11 at the Clark International Speedway.

Several club members of the Ford Club of the Philippines will be watching their cozy Ecosport and Explorer Track Day, while the Specialty Performance Club will be on hand with their racing machines battling it out in the fourth quarter-mile Exterior Rally competition category.

A total of seventeen (17) events are scheduled on race day with all tickets to the Autocross competition while the TRS Cup, led by Charlie Co-Jumpco will battle highlighting the event.

Racing Form

By Ian Chelsea
At Santa Ana Park

PH football books...

from page A20

worth in shaking hobnobbing with the country's favorite sports of basketball, boxing and billiards.

Football fever raged among Filipinos since the Azkals's three-day Manila trip, one of the stops of the glamour clubs Asia Pacific tour.

Even hours before the Azkals and the Galaxy lunged in an exhibition match last night, anxious fans milled around the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium.

An assortment of football merchandise and staple fan gimmicks such as face painting also added to the riot of color and festivity in and around the venue.

"This particular game is really for the promotion of the sport and to give everybody a chance to watch them," Azkals team manager Ian Araneta said of the friendly aptly dubbed as the 2011 Dream Cup.

"It's not just for football but also for tourism. I think it's important that high-profile teams like the LA Galaxy are able to come over."

The last time an elite football club played an exhibition in the country was when Brazilian team Cruzeiro raised in the 1970s.

Online, football fanatics also got stoked hours before the match when Galaxy captain Landon Donovan asked on Twitter if Aly Borromeo, his Ateneo counterpart, can trade jerseys with him after the game.

"I know you're injured and not playing tonight but can we trade jerseys after the game?" Donovan, who MLS Cup Finals MVP, asked Borromeo on his account.

"Would love to have it!" Borromeo tweeted back.

Borromeo, who has been sidelined for the last two months due to an injury on his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), obliged to the surprise request and said "it would be an honor."

"Never been this excited for a match i couldn't play," said Borromeo. "This is surreal!"

Heat, Mavs highlight NBA X'mas opening

THE NATIONAL Basketball Association confirmed on Friday that the 2011-12 season will start on Christmas Day with five high-profile games, including a blockbuster showdown between the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat.

The New York Knicks will also host the Boston Celtics at Madison Square Garden and the Los Angeles Lakers host the Chicago Bulls when the shortened 66-game season finally gets under way after a five-month lockout.

The tip-offs remain contingent on league owners and the players' union approving a new collective bargaining agreement, the talks have already agreed in principle and are expected to ratify the deal next week.

NBA owners and players returned to the negotiation table on Friday to put together the final pieces of a more 10-year collective bargaining agreement that was agreed to in principle last Saturday.

The two sides are shooting for a confirmation next week of the agreement, with the NBA Board of Governors planning to meet on Thursday, NBA spokesman Tim Frank told Reuters.

Ratification would permit training camps to open on Dec 9.

Teams would then vie for the season with preseason contests starting Dec 16.

The owners and players union were able to resume negotiating after the players announced on Thursday more than 200 of their members had approved the reforming of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) as their union.

"This is good news and completes another step in the process of finalizing our agreement," Frank said.

The union had disclaimed interest in representing the players on Nov 14 after talks with the owners broke down, allowing players to file an antitrust lawsuits against the league. Reuters

Tough rival for Viloria

BRIAN Viloria faces a tough opponent in Giovani Segura when the two collide on Dec. 31 at the Tinsua Sports Arena.

Segura (26-1-1, 24 KOs) has ended the light flyweight division in the past few years. The fighter from Ciudad Altamirano, Guerrero, Mexico, had a very good start in his career as he won undefeated in his 20 fights.

Segura lost for the first time in his career against Cesar Candelas via unanimous decision but this proved to be only a minor speed bump. He knocked out Candelas in the fourth round of their rematch and he went on to win his next eight fights, all via stoppage.

Nicknamed El Guerrero Azteca, Segura has knocked out 20 percent of his opponents and he holds 11 first round knockout wins, a statistic unheard of in boxing lighter weight divisions.

Tickets to the fight are available through Ticket Net (889 6999) and Ticket Worlds—VIP: P500, Ringside: P400, Grandside: P200, Bleachers: P150. For more information, visit www.sokolsports.ph.

Cotto battles Margarito

NEW YORK—Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito have sold out Madison Square Garden, proving there's plenty of interest in what happens in their rematch Saturday.

"There's a lot of anger. There's a lot of hatred between both of us," Margarito said Wednesday at the Roosevelt Hotel. "Someone will be leaving here in this fight. Both of us are going out to hurt each other."

The Tijuana Tornado stopped Cotto in the 11th round in Las Vegas in their first meeting.

Cotto weighed in at 152 1/4 pounds and Margarito at 152 1/2. Both fighters posed for photographers as legendary promoter Bob Arum stood between them. AP

Perpetual pips San Sebastian

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help downed reigning champion San Sebastian in straight sets to seize the sole lead in the women's division of the WNCAA volleyball competition at the San Beda Gym in Mendiola, Manila.

The Lady Altas were on their way to wrapping it up after leading, 25-21, 25-20, 11-8, before a fight between San Sebastian coach Roger Gonzaga and San Beda mentor Frankie Lim and some of his players broke out that forced officials to stop the match.

San Sebastian eventually conceded the match and officials awarded the win to Perpetual, which is now back on top with an immaculate 3-0 (win-loss) record.

"I'm happy that we won, but I'm sad that these things happen," said Perpetual coach Mike Rabaca Filipino.

SM stages 3rd bowling finals at MOA today

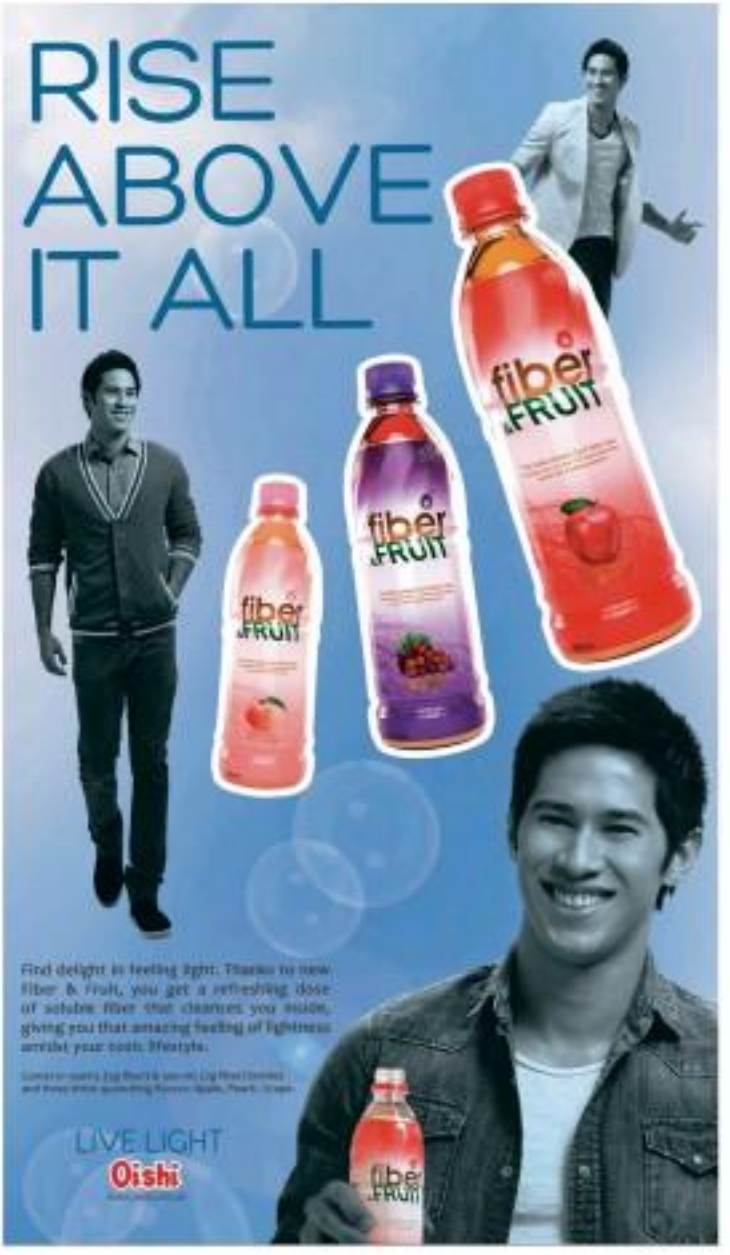
TWENTY-FOUR qualifiers will compete in today's third national finals of the 10th SM Bowling Cup at SM Mall of Asia.

Action starts at 12 noon with the awarding of prizes to follow at 5 p.m. Today's champion will get a new Chevrolet Cruze.

Tristan Aales was the first leg adult Leap Finals was second leg champion.

Aspirants must have fired three sets of a four-game series for qualification and be able to play on at least one venue finals. The top-10 bowlers per SM Bowling Center will compete in the national finals.

For inquiries, visit the branches at SM Mall of Asia, SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview and SM City Cebu, or call 1045 SM.



GIFT SUGGESTIONS FROM ACE EXPRESS

This Christmas, give your loved ones a gift of home improvement from ACE Express.

There are heavy- duty stainless steel toolboxes for the DIY enthusiast, as well as GearRatchet wrench tool sets for automotive and plumbing projects.

Blast Vac 2 hand vacuum cleaners will make household cleaning chores easy, while Fresh Air Globes will keep the air in your home clean and fresh smelling. You'll always have fresh, clean and healthy water in your home with tabletop water dispensers and purifiers.

For those who love the outdoors, there are camping tents and portable gas stoves for great cookouts.

And while shopping for your holiday gifts at ACE Express stores, check out its Shopping and Saving for the Holidays Only this December promotion. You can avail great savings and discounts on assorted power tools, car chemicals and spray paints as well as rechargeable LED lamps and electronic gadgets.

What's more, every P500 single or accumulated purchase at ACE Express stores until December 31 entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of 100 iPad2 units with Wifi and 16g.

These items are available at ACE Express stores located at selected SM Department Stores at the SM Supermalls, as well as in Tutuban Mall, Muñoz Jackman Plaza, Mendez Tagaytay, SM Hypermarket in Batangas and Pampanga, as well as Savemore branches in Tanay, Mezza, Broadway Centrum, and Apalit, Pampanga.

This Blast Vac 2 hand vacuum cleaner will help you clean your house. It comes with an array of attachments, a handy carry strap and a timer to indicate every big mark is reached.

This Instant Portable Stove is great for holiday cook outs.

This heavy duty stainless steel ACE Toolbox will keep your tools dry and organized.

High quality Table Top Water Dispenser.

This ACE 27-piece GearRatchet Wrench Tool Set is a perfect gift for automotives.

This ACE 37-piece GearRatchet Tool Set is ideal for automotive and plumbing projects. Set includes 1/4" drive wrench, metric sockets and bits.

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase at ACE Hardware, ACE Builders and ACE Express stores entitles you to an raffle coupon to win one of 100 iPad2 units with Wifi and 16 g.

BIZTCH Guilles of Rainforest Park Cebu

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Eco-tourism park rises in Cebu

By Jasco A. Bugaia
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Harsh Guilles wanted to put up a business that would help promote environmental awareness. So he and his family decided to set up an eco-tourism theme park within the city.

The P35-million Rainforest Park Cebu, which opened last August, provides an alternative tourist attraction, offering adventure filled activities that have caught the attention of many clients, including employees of business process outsourcing companies (BPOs) and their families.

"I was thinking that we need to create activities/materials to promote environmental awareness while doing business," Guilles says.

He wanted an enterprise that would encourage the preservation of trees, animal resources and birds, as well as one that would conserve water, he explained.

JASCO BUGAIA JR.

THE 37TH PHILIPPINE FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS SHOW OPENS AT SM MEGATRADE HALL

One of the country's most anticipated and prestigious furniture shows will feature the best and latest locally made furnishings, decorative accents and more in time for the holidays.

Don't spend too much of your hard-earned money just yet for holiday shopping, as the 37th Philippine Furniture and Furnishings Show (PFFS) is slated to open this November 23 to December 4, at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall 1.

Considered as one of the longest and most prestigious consumer furniture and furnishings shows in the Philippines, the 37th edition of the PFFS is expected to draw record exhibitors and crowds during its 10 day run. To date, almost 90 exhibitors will show the public their latest and exclusive designs for furniture and furnishings.

"The 37th PFFS will run for a record 10 days," says Edilito Valenzuela, the National Executive Director of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (CFIP), adding that PFFS's run will in fact cover two shopping weekends. "This is to give more time for shoppers to make purchases just in time for the holidays. Of course, we expect the public to keep on coming back for their purchases. The venue will of course be the Megatrade Hall 1 of SM Megamall,the most visited exhibition hall in Metro Manila,hence our decision to conduct the event for 10 days in order to give more time not only for the exhibitors to showcase their products but to also give the buying public ample time to come back."

The event says Ms. Valenzuela is especially timely for furniture designers and buyers who are looking for Philippine made items of high quality, craftsmanship and design. "We encouraged the PFFS participants to use sustainable materials in the products that they will be showcasing in their booths," he says. "This is also our way of encouraging visitors to buy items that are environmentfriendly. Not a lot of people know this, but PFFS is also the continuity activity of the green design program of CFIP."

To make the event even more exciting, says Mr. Valenzuela, the PFFS has lined-up a number of guests speakers who are expected to deliver their insights not only on the current situation of design in the country, but also on the country's increasingly favorable trade situation.

For more information regarding PFFS, the schedule of activities for the event, and even 'late' space reservations, interested parties can call the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines at 631-3824 and 632-9807 and look for Shirley Pano or Jessica Madel Protacio.

A proclamation of thanksgiving

THE UNITED States has seen its share of weather-related catastrophes in 2011. At the beginning of year, several cities were punished by blizzards, and snowfall amounts approached record totals in Chicago, Boston, and New York.

In April and May, a super outbreak of tornadoes wreaked devastation across South Central United States, most notably in the city of Joplin, Missouri. Later in the spring, communities along the Missouri River and Mississippi River experienced some of the worst flooding of the past century. Hurricane Irene caused extensive damage along the Atlantic Coast in August, and came from the storm flooded many areas of Vermont.

Also, throughout the year, wildfires have burned across the plains of Texas. Indeed, drought conditions now plague nearly a third of the country and represent America's costliest natural disaster of 2011.

Meanwhile, unemployment lingers in the national economy, and housing markets remain depressed. Demonstrations have gathered in urban centers across the country to protest the country's financial institutions. In addition, three out of four Americans now believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

In light of economic woes, political malaise, and national catastrophe, Americans may not be feeling particularly grateful. The holiday season, however, suggests that in times such as these, giving thanks may be most important. Ironically, it is also the most difficult.

Origins of Thanksgiving

In an era when women rarely had access to education, Sarah Josepha Hale devoted herself to private study and developed into a skilled, self-taught writer and editor. In her mid-'20s, she married a lawyer, David. However, eight and a half years into their marriage, David contracted pneumonia and died, leaving Sarah to raise their five children. Profoundly saddened by the loss of her husband, Sarah dressed in black for the rest of her life.

Following her husband's death, Sarah Josepha Hale took on a number of writing and editing jobs to support her family. Owing to her novels, poems, and articles, she developed a national reputation and widespread readership. Most famously, she authored the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

Driving force

Interestingly, this widow-in-mourning became a driving force behind America's Thanksgiving holiday. Perhaps on account of lessons drawn from coping with personal tragedy, Sarah Josepha Hale was a staunch advocate of the idea of passing, periodically, to express gratitude for life's blessings.

Over the course 17 years, Hale waged the merits of a Thanksgiving holiday to newspaper editorials. She also sent letters to every state governor and President lobbying for the institution of a national day of thanksgiving.

Hale's efforts were largely ineffective. That is until one of her letters reached the desk of President Abraham Lincoln. In the midst of the darkest and bloodiest chapter in American history, the Civil War, Lincoln read Hale's appeal for the establishment of a Thanksgiving holiday. Lincoln believed observing such a holiday would promote unity, reminding a divided nation of the many blessings shared by all.

Influenced by Hale's petition, President Lincoln issued a proclamation on October 3, 1863, officially designating the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving (Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation).

Application

Albeit buffeted by adverse circumstances, people's thoughts naturally center on life's negatives. In these moments, leaders have to educate (they can) communicate with everyone else, or they can seek to change the mood by accentuating the positives and orientating others to appreciate the good things in life.

As Thanksgiving approaches, call a team meeting. Express thanks to your teammates for their contributions during the past year. Then, mention a specific blessing for which you're thankful and go around the table. Ask members of your team/mates an opportunity to do the same. By briefly recounting your blessings, your team will have an opportunity to realign its attitude and will gain strength for facing whatever hardships are present.

(Reprinted with permission from The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy.)

In N. Ecija, so many owe trade success to so few

Text and photos by Anneinne Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—Backed by a committee to empower the poor, the Alalay sa Kaunlaran Inc. (AsK) has evolved into this city's most vigorous microenterprise development organization.

AsK's record appearances in a small note first room in 1997. Today the microfinance provider, now housed in a three-story building here, oversees 38 branches in 11 provinces in central and northern Luzon.

It also operates a branch in Singapore for overseas Filipino workers.

AsK used to be run by two volunteer employees, who served five clients. Today, it has 650 workers serving more than 84,000 entrepreneurs who on also the group's members.

Most of AsK's clients are market vendors, farmers, women, the youth, and indigenous peoples in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Aurora, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya.

"We are glad the voices of five men and two women leaders who overpopulated [AsK] has been received. [AsK] now has assets worth P1.2 billion," says Rolando Victoria, AsK executive director.

Victoria is an accountant and a former banker. He was supervisor in a loan employee who served as all-around assistant and troubleshooter.

The office's prized possessions there were a battered typewriter, a set of chairs, a table, an old electric fan, and a business that could be viewed from the window of the chief's fancy room, which was all the inspiration they needed to keep up their tasks, Victoria says.

"It was post-1986 People Power revolution then, and social issues like poverty and unemployment were widely felt. Out of Christian zeal and compassion, the organization was put up to help rural-oriented [essential life] through microenterprises," he explains.

According to Victoria, AsK's founders were guided by the achievements of David Roscoe, pioneer of microfinance services and cofounder of "Opportunity International Australia" and "Opportunity International Network."

Roscoe believes in the "Society of the poor" who, through their innate talents, can overcome their circumstances when they are given a helping hand.

Although AsK's good intentions were there, it took some time for the organization to secure funds for their projects.

"Slowly, contributions came in. The first [donation] we received from a donor who gave us P1,000," Victoria says.

The volunteers also spent time canvassing during Christmas and monitoring finances for a chance to raise funds.

"Eventually, the Mamatuta Trust of Australia owned by Roscoe gave us P450,000. We started serving the street [entrepreneurs] and other tinners of the microeconomy who have no access to bigger banking institutions," Victoria says.

Nurturing clients requires some Bible sharing, and were given guidelines for managing a successful business. Small loans taken out by this sector are no longer required collateral.

AsK's first clients flourished and were able to pay their loans.

"Their success and persistent started the ball rolling," Victoria says.

In 1999, after a powerful quake devastated Luzon, AsK helped with the rehabilitation efforts, distributing funds to the marginalized to help them rise from the disaster.

Cooperative rooms set up by AsK now sell food, handicraft and other goods produced by the group's members-clientele.

"We are now looking forward to establishing convenience stores that are community-operated," Victoria says.

AsK has also developed a micro-insurance service. Each week, members pay P25 contribution. P20 for their individual insurance premium.

AsK is also considering plans to develop a bank. The group and its member-clients find much pride in its social services program.

"We hold hanging [stalps], develop [agricultural] products, put up solar dryers, repair school buildings, and others. We see in [these programs] how good partnership with government and other entities works effectively for a common good," Victoria says.

With its skills and knowledge intensive, AsK member-clients are trained in microfinance management, such as bookkeeping.

"There are many poor but talented people out there who, when empowered, can make miracles in life," Victoria says.

"Successful clients-members like sharing, and were given guidelines for managing a successful business. help others and their communities," Victoria says.

ALAGANG Victoria, executive director of Alalay sa Kaunlaran Inc., (right) shows Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chapter president Reynaldo Arimbuyutan some of the products created by entrepreneurs assisted by the organization. ASK has established cooperative stores in central and northern Luzon.

ALAGANG sa Kaunlaran Inc., a development organization in Nueva Ecija, has its own building in Cabanatuan City. Tiyan's tailors, NGO workers stayed in small rooms where they worked on empowering the poor.

GOINGS-ON

Mangrove reforestation project receives grant from IBM

IBM PHILIPPINES formed over its Community Grant to the social development foundation Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) in support of IBM's environmental sustainability programs operated in the country.

"We are grateful to our member and trusted partner—IBM and the IBMers who participated in the Blue Mangrove reforestation project. Awarding PBSP as a recipient and implementer of an IBM Community Grant that would encourage leadership, community and the environment of Cebu is a big bonus," said PBSP Exec. Director Leonilla E. Lapiz.

In addition, the grant will also help support the Bantay Kalikasan Volunteer Project, an initiative that aims to rehabilitate the Bulacan Watershed to ensure sustainable water supply for Metro Cebu while improving the lives of the nearby communities and promoting the area as eco-tourist site.

GSC launches Gurango Hosted Solutions for SMEs in PH

GURANGO Software Corp. (GSC), a provider of power-full and affordable management solutions, launched Gurango Hosted Solutions (gHS), an innovative approach to on-demand service that delivers Microsoft Dynamics Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solutions to the desktop small and medium-sized enterprises in the Philippines.

The first stand offering of its kind in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, GHS provides access to core software solutions with no upfront capital investment. Microsoft Dynamics GHS solutions encompass internal and external management information across business functions including finance, accounting, manufacturing, sales, and customer management. Microsoft Dynamics CRM solutions allow the company to manage with customers and prospects.

Solutions "in the cloud" refers to software services delivered over the Internet and hosted in remote data centers. GSC operates its own centers to ensure security and reliability of the SMB service.

Manulife Philippines launches Asia Pacific Bond Fund

MANULIFE Philippines has launched the Asia Pacific Bond Fund, a new $5-billion-denominated variable unit linked fund that provides clients through a mixture of Asian currencies, interest rates and bonds of primarily investment grade.

The fund aims to maximize potential total returns over a medium-to-long term period through a combination of capital appreciation and income generation. It invests in a diversified portfolio of mainly investment grade, fixed-income securities issued by governments, agencies, supra-nationals and corporate issuers from across the Asia Pacific region.

"With the Asia Pacific Bond Fund, our policy owners will now have the potential to generate higher earnings for their US dollar assets through professionally investment grade fixed income securities. The fund is diversified and will invest in securities from three components, specifically currency, credit and interest," said Antonio Mendoza, president and chief executive officer of Manulife Philippines.

The Asia Pacific Bond Fund is managed by Manulife Asset Management's Asia fixed income team with a team of experts in more than 40 fixed income investment professionals based on the ground in 10 marketsacross Asia.

Eco-tourism park rises in Cebu

Front page B1

Guillen is a long-time real estate salesand marketing man.

He presented his theme park idea to members of his family including his wife, Anne Mi-lan, who is engaged in the restaurant business.

Mentor reinforcement exists in cities like Las Vegas and Orlando, in the United States inspired him, to conceptualize a facility that would offer an earthy ambiences and outdoor activities in the heart of the city.

For car-less Cebuanos

"We planned to have this near by from the city center where the economic activities spread to 20 kilometers away in Barangay Buntog," he says. "This is for the ordinary Cebuanos who doesn't have a car. We made it a point [for it] to be accessible from the main thoroughfares."

The 3,000-square-meter park along the Manila South Road will feature obstacle course amid lush greenery, a zip line, and wall climbing and assisted lightrope walking facilities.

Other obstacles are the Cargo Net, which simulates vine climbing using cords, and Earthquake, which requires users to walk on rotating planks suspended from a metal beam high above the ground.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to midnight, Rainforest Park Cebu caters to urban thrillseeks the Cebuanos' hunger for eco-tourism adventure.

"We really want to promote the environment," he says.

Environment lessons

Signs posted in strategic spots teach visitors lessons about the environment.

"Trees muffle urban noise almost as effectively as noise-walls do," one sign reads. "It can also make the air cooler and cleaner."

Guillen says he sees the park's ecological education efforts as a "legacy to leave to generations to come."

Rainforest Park Cebu also features a restaurant with a bird sanctuary and an orientation that accommodates various marine species.

Its management plans to keep local and other Asian birds in the aviary. They will also bring in deer species, crocodiles, bear and other animals since they plan to "expand and put up a small zoo," Guillen says.

The theme park also cares for animals under the Adopt-a-Wildlife program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Some of the 58 park workers take care of the trees, flowers and other vegetation using rainwater collected in a 5,000-gallon underground catchment.

Challenges

Guillen says the main challenge is sourcing. The acceptance of the public, since the park is the first of its kind in the city.

Another was that of raising funds. "since we solely relied on our meager resources," he adds.

They are not expecting any return on investment until the fifth year of operations. But they were overwhelmed by the response of the Cebuanos, including SPO workers, who keep the place fully booked for days on end.

A group of 200 call center agents once booked the place for a weekend for team-building activities.

Family celebrations like birthdays are also accommodated. Children can use the air-conditioned room.

Guillen is assisted by his wife, who loves to cook.

Their daughter, Marian Tara, described the park as a "one-stop shop" because of its attractions.

Aside from a jungle adventure site, it is home to the Zoodiac Cafe, Oasis Spa and Salon, Rainforest Gift Shop and Trifoni Tea

In Ifugao, wall says it all

VISITORS to the Bugas Rice Terraces can rent three-room bamboo huts for a night. Many such huts serve as repositories of a family's cultural and heirloom treasures.

A BREATH-TAKING view of the historic terraces.

A EUROPEAN tourist contributes his photograph as the wall of visitors at Pila's Mount View Inn in Banaue, Ifugao. Guests tend to post their photographs and calling cards there after hiking through the Batad Rice Terraces.

THIS watch-tower deck provides tourists a good view of the Bugas Rice Terraces.

EUROPEANS hiking through the terraces in Ifugao are offered these walking sticks. Although purely sourced as a tourist typhoon, tourists still come to see Batad Rice Terraces.

Heritage List. But these centuries-old mountain farms still attract Europeans and other expert visitors no matter what state the terraces are in, said Perfecto Mabeza, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Heavy rains dumped by typhoons in September and October triggered landslides that damaged bridges and roads, isolating Ifugao for days.

Tourists were trapped in the province until the government opened a new bridge and cleared roads of debris.

Despite this, tourists continue to come, adding their photographs to the inn's wall.

"Ifugao receives the highest number of foreign tourists in the Cordillera... World Heritage Rice will always [draw] attention," said Mabeza.

"Most of the [Ifugao visitors] are Europeans. They are backpackers who do not mind walking the extra mile because we still have closed roads," Baguilat said.

AN AUSTRALIAN hikes through Batad Rice Terraces. Tourists continue to stream into the mountains, despite the typhoon-caused damage to some of the country's most prized rice area.

TERRACE residents delight tourists with their wood carvings.

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Sunday Biz

In Ifugao, wall says it all

POSTCARD PERFECT Although recent storms have taken their toll on the Ifugao rice terraces, the view still remains its charm.

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—The wall of Bai's Mount View Inn overlooking the rice terraces in the village of Bocod in Banaue, Ifugao, is a collage of photographs, calling cards and identification cards posted there by tourists who have discovered stories about the so-called eighth wonder of the world.

WALL OF STORIES. Banaue Mahkunat operator Bai's Mount View Inn in Banaue, Ifugao. One of the establishment's primary draws is the wall of stories, where guests post their photographs and calling cards after hiking the trails the Banaue Rice Terraces, one of the sites on display on the World Heritage List.

Power Situation Outlook
for Sunday, 04 December 2011

A human hiker, who spent hours walking through the terraces on Nov. 11, returned to visit Bai's inn and photograph for the myriad items on the inn's wall.

An Australian couple spent some time looking at the faces and names on the wall, which included Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Professors of the Banaue Institute were literally reduced by recent typhoons, along with many other tourists enchanted by the World

TECHNOLOGY IS CRUCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

PLDT innovations power outsourcing growth

US Ambassador Harry Thomas, Jr. and Philippine President Benigno Aquino speaking with PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group and SMART Enterprise Sales and Marketing Group Ana Consuelo Ty during the opening of the PLDT-SMART Data Center Disaster Recovery Management Site in Laoag, attended by PLDT and SMART top executives and customers in the Ilocos Norte province.

At the annual International Outsourcing Summit held over two days at the Bonifacio Global City campus of PLDT ALPHA Enterprise technology for future BPO growth and development was underscored. VP and Head of Corporate Relationship Management for PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Mitch Lozon summed it up in simple understandable facts, stating these national progress is 20% dependent on technology.

His presentation, Enabling Global Competitiveness, cited studies from two prominent agencies, The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the prestigious international business school INSEAD (Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires), or European Institute of Business Administration).

The WEF's Global Competitiveness Report tracks each country's competitiveness, benchmarked according to pillars at a Global Competitiveness Index (GCI). Three of the twelve pillars (Infrastructure, Innovation, and Technological Readiness) are directly technology-related. "This points to the French recognition that technology and its effective use will impact a nation's ability to compete in the global marketplace," he said.

INSEAD has also published together with the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, a Global Information Technology Report over the last ten years. It surveys the propensity of countries to exploit the opportunities offered by ICT, measured by a Networked Readiness Index (NRI), a parameter defining the importance of ICT to national development.

"It is no strange coincidence that 13 of the top 20 countries in the Global Competitive Index (GCI) also rank in the top 20 of the Network Readiness Index (NRI)," Mr. Lozon adds. "While it is not an conclusion that the use of ICT alone spurred development, what we want emphasize is that how countries approach the development of technology to enable economic advancement."

The Philippines—Higher Up the Value Chain

His statement that the Philippines is ranked 39th in the business sophistication pillar of the GCI, due to "a large quantity of local suppliers, the existence of numerous and well-developed clusters, and an increased presence of Filipino businesses in the higher segments of the value chain." We also rank a high 36th in the market size pillar due to the sheer size of the domestic market, a definite advantage.

In terms of the NRI, Mr. Lozon said the country today is ranked 85th in the relatively low Internet Broadband penetration. "However, PLDT, along with other Philippine Telcos are investing heavily in order for the country to move up the rank. PLDT has allocated significant resources specifically to address technological limitations and the investment capability of the country."

PLDT Capital Expenditures, (Capex) remains concentrated in the country. This investment was dedicated for PLDT's integrated fixed-legacy networks to Next Generation Networks. It also enabled the expansion and fortification of domestic fiber optic submarine cable systems, and the expansion of wireless broadband networks. PLDT investments for the next two years will be even more aggressive with a total of $1.6B USD as PLDT accelerates its Innovation and Customer Experience initiatives.

All that ALPHA Jazz

After a fulfilling luncheon conference, welcoming delegates from all over the world got to experience a PLDT ALPHA-themed evening of glamorous festivities. Entertainment was delivered in true ALPHA-style, care of our highest performances from the AMP Live Band at multi-awarded Mel Villena. The equally talented and acclaimed female vocalist Marielle Velasco and Student alleged more than one encore, it was only fitting for an audience that had worked so hard and so attentively for the past 2 days and nights.

PLDT VP and Head of Corp. Business Group and SMART Enterprise Sales and Marketing Head Ana Consuelo

Regional sales & SMART exec. Ayan Ayan of PLDT Commercial Mrs. Evelyn Lacsamana and Mrs. Rosario Cruz

Alejandro Perez, Dave Enriquez, Wing Magbitin, Eli Medina, Rogelio Calderon, Jay Lagdameo, Percy Kalaykay, and Alvin Cua

Sun Cellular garners top 3 honors from prestigious awards group

FROST & SULLIVAN

Digital Telecommunications Philippines Incorporated, commercially known as Sun Cellular, has received the Philippines Telecom Service Provider of the Year award at the 2011 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific Best Practices Awards recently held in Singapore on October 13, 2011.

Sun Cellular's Mr. Charles A. Lim receives the Philippines Telecom Service Provider of the Year award from Mr. Babu Ellan, Partner of Frost & Sullivan

Frost & Sullivan cited Digitel's 18% percent revenue growth which was primarily buoyed by the sterling performance of its mobile subsidiary Sun Cellular. "The growth is one of the highest among all operators in South East Asia," Jayesh Easwaramony, Vice President for Asia Pacific ICT Practice of Frost & Sullivan said. "Digitel has provided much needed choice to subscribers since its launch and has spearheaded several market changing initiatives," he added.

Sun Cellular, a wholly owned subsidiary of Digitel, was also awarded the Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year by Frost & Sullivan.

"Sun Cellular was able to grow its revenue by over 25% in a fast saturating market," Easwaramony said. "It has been at the forefront of pricing innovation based approach to stimulate growth in the Philippines and their initiatives have been rewarded by subscribers," he added.

Sun Cellular's Mr. Edgardo Reyes (center) and Mr. Arockiaraj Xavier (right) receive the Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year award from Mr. Anthony Miller, Vice President, Asia Pacific ICT Practice, Frost & Sullivan (left)

Sun Cellular's Mr. Charles A. Lim (second, accompanied by Mr. Reuben S.J. Pangan (right) receives the Philippines Telecom Service Provider CEO of the Year award on behalf of Mr. James J. Go, from Mr. Babu Ellan (with Romeo Lefrant & Sullivan)

Frost & Sullivan is a growth partnership company with a history of providing innovative growth solutions and strategies to some of the world's leading Global 1000 companies. The Frost & Sullivan Awards are presented to companies that demonstrate best practices and outstanding performance in areas such as market leadership, innovation and business strategies.

Easwaramony also cited Sun Cellular's leadership in the Postpaid Market. "Its postpaid subscribers grew over 35% while its overall subscriber base grew more than 29% in 2010," Easwaramony said. Last September 2010, Sun Cellular was the first in the local telecommunications industry to have reached one million postpaid subscriptions, with seven out of 10 new subscribers choosing Sun for the past three years.

Digitel/Sun Cellular's former President and CEO, Mr. James J. Go was also given the Philippines Telecom Service Provider CEO of the Year award, based on his leadership, vision, and risk-taking abilities that propelled Digitel and Sun Cellular to where they are now.

"We have set the pace that others followed when we introduced our 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited Products and Services. This changed the demands of the general public and eventually forced competition to change their business models. We are proud that once again this prestigious organization has chosen to recognize our efforts," says Sun Cellular's Mr. Charles A. Lim.

Two years ago, Sun Cellular bagged the Most Promising Telecom Service Provider of the Year award in Asia Pacific from Frost & Sullivan. Currently, it has more than 16 million subscribers supported by over 7,000 cell sites throughout the country.

Digitel and Sun Cellular are now part of the PLDT Group.

THE MOST PROMISING SERVICE PROVIDER OF 2009 IS
THE BEST SERVICE PROVIDER OF 2011

In the recent 2011 Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Awards,
held in Singapore on October 13, 2011
Sun Cellular has been recognized with three major awards of excellence:

2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines Telecom Service Provider of the Year
2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year
2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines Telecom Service Provider CEO of the Year

You, our valued subscribers, made it all possible. And these recognitions are truly for you.

We thank you for choosing Sun for your mobile communication needs.
We thank you more for your continued support of our products and services.
We can only assure you of better and brighter things ahead as Sun Cellular delivers
only the best-value and relationship-enhancing services to the whole nation.

Together, we've reached another milestone. Together, we'll shine even brighter.

DIGITEL

Member of the PLDT Group

SUN CELLULAR

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and an
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to accumulate
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CHEERS!

CONGRATS!

BUT OUR FAVORITE GIFT,
and one that we'll always
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is seeing you
SUCCEED.

The Philippines Telecom Service Provider CEO of the Year
The Philippines Telecom Service Provider of the Year
The Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year

NEURON

CAMPAIGNS & GREY

Sun Cellular's Most Powerful Prepaid Products Enrich the Lifestyle of Showbiz' Elite

Sun family member Judy Ann Santos can't help but express her excitement as Sun Cellular launches the year's most awaited Sun prepaid product - Sun P200 Text Unlimited.

Multi-awarded drama actress Judy Ann Santos is known, not only as a versatile artist who transitions from drama to comedy and other roles in between, but also as a loving wife, a mother and a practical homemaker. Wife to actor-host Ryan Agoncillo, and mother to seven-year-old Yohan and Baby Lucho, she makes good choices in different aspects of her life - including what clothes to wear, food to eat, products to endorse, projects to accept and the communication partner to rely on.

"Being connected to your loved ones is important, as it provides you with peace of mind that they can be reached anytime you want. That's why I trust Sun Cellular!" enthuses Judy.

With Sun P200 Text Unlimited, Judy now has 500 texts to other networks that go along with Sun's ever reliable Text Unlimited service, more than enough to keep Judy in the loop even with contacts subscribed to other networks. "Imagine, for just P200, I get unlimited Sun texts, 6 hours of Sun calls, and 500 texts to other networks that allow me to text all I want and call my family and loved ones for 28 days!"

And because Sun P200 Text Unlimited is so affordable, it's certain that it will become the most popular Sun prepaid load that household will use. With the 500 texts to other networks that it provides, Judy now has more to share her thoughts to ALL her contacts during her "power texting" spree! "Pwede kaming magkuwentuhan kahit anong oras!"

Sun Text Unlimited, meanwhile is also available in P50 which includes 2 days of unlimited Sun texts and 30 minutes of Sun calls; P58 which includes unlimited Sun texts valid for 1 days plus 1 hour of Sun calls; and P150 which includes unlimited Sun texts plus 6 hours of Sun calls valid for 30 days. Wiser Tet10 can also be availed for those who want to take advantage of unlimited Sun texts plus 5 minutes of Sun calls valid for 1 day.

To enjoy any variant of Text Unlimited, visit your nearest Sun Kiosk/load retailer now or convert your regular load by texting TU50, TU58, TU150, TU200, or WIN10 to 247 to start your unlimited Sun texting spree.

Sun P200 Text Unlimited is available from July 29 – January 31, 2012. Visit the nearest Sun Shop or text TU200 to 247 to convert your regular load and avail of the new Sun P200 Text Unlimited. You may also log on to www.suncellular.com.ph/ if you want to know more of Sun Cellular's unlimited products and services. For updates visit www.facebook.com/suncellularpostpaid or follow Sun on Twitter through www.twitter.com/suncellularph.

ZTE中兴 Philippines , Inc.

Congratulates

Sun Cellular

for winning

2011 Frost and Sullivan Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year

SUN CELLULAR

DIGITEL

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BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE IRRESISTIBLE! SUN CELLULAR INTRODUCES NEW CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED OFFERS

Enjoy more benefits as Sun Cellular's Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) brings together the best of both worlds in one single load by adding the most texts-to-other networks found in any Call and Text Unlimited load in the market today.

For only P25 per day, you continue to enjoy unlimited talk time and endless texts with your family and friends using Sun. But now, Sun CTU 25 has also been enhanced with a whopping 50 free texts to other networks so you can text all your precious contacts with no worries. Sun's forget the free 20 minutes of mobile internet that lets you update your Facebook status and Twitter account so that you're connected on-the-go as well.

If you want to be assured of uninterrupted connectivity for two days, avail of the new Sun CTU 50 that not only doubles but triples your free texts to other networks with 150 free SMS on top of unlimited Sun Calls and Texts plus a free 50 minutes of mobile internet.

With convenient loading, no complicated registration, reliable on-time texting, and seamless 24/7 calling, Sun Call and Text Unlimited is unlike any other prepaid offer in the market. It presents added flexibility with more texts and the benefits of reliable connectivity, wider network coverage as well as uninterrupted communication that only this pioneer in unlimited can bring.

So relax and take advantage of Sun's Call & Text Unlimited offers.

For more information about CTU 25 and CTU 50, visit The Sun Shop or Sun retailer nearest you. You may also call the Sun Hotline 300 using a Sun-powered handset or (02) 995 8000 from any landline phone. Log on to www.suncellular.com.ph or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/sununlimitedpage. Follow Sun Cellular on Twitter via www.twitter.com/sununlimited for updates.

SUN CELLULAR
2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines
Mobile Service Provider of the Year

DIGITEL
2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines
Service Provider of the Year

MR. JAMES L. GO
2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippines
Service Provider CEO of the Year

Congratulations!
We are privileged to be your partner.

Starcom MediaVest GROUP

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- MY SOLID TECHNOLOGIES

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CONGRATULATES

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FOR BEING THE
2011 FROST AND SULLIVAN
PHILIPPINES MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
AND
CHAIRMAN MR. JAMES L. GO
FOR BEING THE
2011 FROST AND SULLIVAN
PHILIPPINES SERVICE PROVIDER CEO OF THE YEAR
DURING THE RECENTLY HELD
ASIA PACIFIC BEST PRACTICES AWARDS NIGHT IN SINGAPORE.

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DIGITEL sun CELLULAR

FROST & SULLIVAN SERVICE
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ARTBUILDERS
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Congratulations!

:) :) :)

Mr. James L. Go, *2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippine Service Provider CEO of the Year*
Sun Cellular, *2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippine Mobile Service Provider of the Year*
Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc., *2011 Frost & Sullivan Philippine Service Provider of the Year*

Cheers from blackpencil

More than Unlimited, Sun has Add-on Plans to fit your Lifestyle

Connectivity is of utmost importance in our technology-driven society. It is unthinkable how one can keep up with the demands of work and home without the necessary network and gadgets to keep things going smoothly and efficiently. Mobile phone communication, therefore, has gone beyond convenience to necessity. And Sun Cellular is now stepping up its game intensifying its best value offers and deals for its subscribers, beginning with its 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited services.

As low as P2/min IDD calls

Do you want to hear the voice of a loved one thousands of miles away from home? You can do so for only P2 per minute with your Sun Cellular postpaid line! For just P2, you'll get to talk with your loved ones abroad through the Sun Todo IDD promo! You just need to text TODO180 to 247. The P2/minute rate is applicable to calls to U.S. (Main), Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Guam and Hawaii. This promo is extended until December 31, 2011 per DTI-NCR permit no.9221 series of 2011.

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Visit the Sun Shop branch nearest you now to know more of Sun Cellular's various services and offers. Dial the Sun Hotline 200 using a Sun-powered phone or (02) 395-8800 from any landline for more queries. Log on to www.suncellular.com.ph or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/sunnetsavagph for more updates, or follow Sun Cellular on Twitter via www.twitter.com/sunnetsavagph.

SUN BUSINESS
Your Pro-Business Partner

SUN BUSINESS ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO GO PRO

In today's technology-driven and fast paced world, more and more companies are turning to integrated mobile solutions to efficiently run their operations. Sun Business, the corporate solutions arm of Sun Cellular, is a company's complete telecommunications partner which provides value-for-money solutions so enterprises can do more for their business for less. Sun Business aims to help businesses to reinvent themselves to get more rewarding ways to gain leverage over their respective competitors. It offers a wide range of services which are ideal for advisories, announcements, office updates, emergencies, company activities and events, recruitment, pricing updates, staff notifications, traffic updates, info-on-demand and campaigns. Sun Business' services are:

- **Message Cast** is a web-based messaging service that allows the company to send and broadcast SMS to one or multiple recipients across all networks.
- **Mobiserve** is a customer service support center solution that allows the company to deploy a help desk or hotline system for customers over SMS and the web.
- **The Gatekeeper** solution helps ensure students' safety by informing parents and guardians every time students enter or leave the school premises through a text message.
- **Mobile Report Manager** is a web-based solution that enables companies to receive field reports from mobile phones.
- **Track and Trace** service allows business owners to keep an eye on their valuable assets and field personnel through the GPS and GSM network 24/7 through the provision of real time, location-based information.
- **Online Presence** brings together Sun's internet service and webhosting solution for businesses to maintain an online presence in order to reach a wider audience and more customers through the internet.
- **Mobile Pay** is a worry-free and competitively priced wireless point-of-sale solution that will enable payment transaction in any location.
- **Corporate Xpress Load** is a hassle-free, web-based application that allows business owners to send load to their employees and manage the company's communication needs through a hassle-free, web-based service that allows the sending of load to both employees and customers.
- **Corporate Ringback Tone** allows businesses to personalize corporate lines by using their advertisements or jingle as their very own ringback.

For more of Sun Business and its mobile solutions for ventures, log on to http://sunbusiness.com.ph or call the Sun Business Hotline 995-8890 (395-677s) or visit The Sun Shop nearest you.

"SUN IS ALWAYS PIONEERING, EVEN WITH AWARDS!"
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DIGITEL

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A winner truly shines!

Sony Ericsson congratulates
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for winning three awards from the recently held
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Digitel
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Sun Cellular
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Mobile Service Provider of the Year

Chairman Mr. James L. Go
2011 Frost & Sullivan Phils.
Service Provider CEO of the Year

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LIFESTYLE

Season of selfless spirit

DECOR FOR A CAUSE

Get these Christmas ornaments made from recycled paper for P50 each at the Volunteer Station desk. Shoppers will drop the payment directly at the donation box. They can bring these decorations or hang them on the Volunteer Station Christmas tree with their names. Proceeds from the sale of the Christmas ornaments will be shared by the five foundations.

By MARGIE C. ENRIQUEZ
Photos by Nelson Manansan

The frenzy of shopping tends to make people forget that Christmas is a special time of goodwill and giving.

Go beyond the customary gifts. Ayala Malls is creating meaningful opportunities for shoppers to express the graciousness of their spirit.

Its "Inspire" campaign urges individuals to cultivate their inner hero by participating in activities that would have an impact on society.

In the words-taking, Ayala Malls collaborates with foundations that invite shoppers to sign up in Volunteer Stations so they can participate in humanitarian activities. Shoppers literally are made to realize that wealth is not just for pleasure, but also for sharing with others. Contributions are not only monetary; they may come in kind or through the time and care spent by shoppers in volunteer work.

"Every year when we launch the Christmas campaign, we do some activity that is more about giving back," said Florencia Tomoldan, Ayala Land vice president and head of operations, commercial business group.

"This year's Inspire campaign aims to bring out the hero in each person," added Tomoldan. "We are giving the customers the chance to choose which foundation or NGO they would like to assist like volunteering to build homes, donate, tutor children. You have a choice of contributing resources if you lack the time to volunteer."

Ayala Malls campaign promotes volunteerism and appreciation of everyday heroism

SHINING Miley, Angeline Quinto and Sinag dancers in Christmas

Likewise, a purchase of a Christmas ornament from a Volunteer Station goes to any of these NGO's.

Through donations, shoppers join the network and share in the work of the foundations.

Since it started ten months ago, the campaign has generated support that has exceeded Ayala Malls' expectations. To date, over 3,700 volunteers have signed up in all Ayala Malls. Throughout the malls, families offered to give their time. Many young people see volunteerism as a vehicle to discover their own personal talents that they can share with society.

Evangeline Rilloraza, executive director of the Children's Hour, says it gets an average of 150 volunteers a day in the Ayala Malls. It got an overwhelming response from volunteers who want to tour your children around the Mind Museum in April 2012.

Another booth is Everyday Heroes, where shoppers can share their appreciation of the hero in their daily life. They can nominate a bread-than-mother, teacher, boss or best friend and describe the virtues which make them heroes in their own ways.

Selected through a weekly draw, the winners receive rewards from the mall merchants.

Meanwhile the Christmas concert series offers free hearing talks, music, dance and videos.

At a recent concert Sam Milby reminisced how he was just an ordinary Kibitzer in Glorietta where he was discovered.

Years later, he was back at the same mall as a star, urging people to do volunteer work. "He talked about pursuing dreams and not losing hope. Those who watched were touched," said Tomoldan.

Ultimately, the Inspire campaign reminds individuals of their true goodness and that they can direct their physical and inner resources to providing for others. In return, the universe rewards them with what they do for other human beings.

"We are bringing out the true Christmas spirit that goes beyond giving gifts," said Tomoldan.

May our shining stars lead us to shine our own light for all.

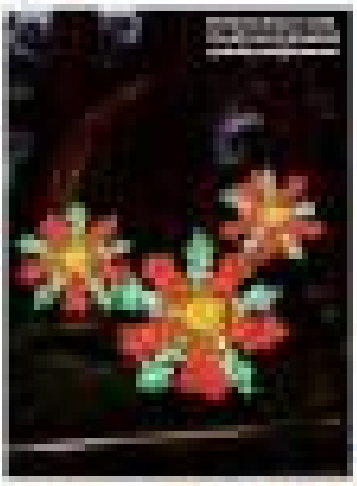
Spread the warmth of Christmas together with Susy and Pepsi Abrera for Children's Hour, Rafael Lopa for Ninay and Cory Aquino Foundation, Maria Dizquaire for Ayala Foundation, Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez for WWF, Michelle Chan for Hero Foundation and Karen Davila for Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer and Inspire!

Christmas Volunteer Station
Your chance to reach out and volunteer through various NGOs.
November 23 - December 23

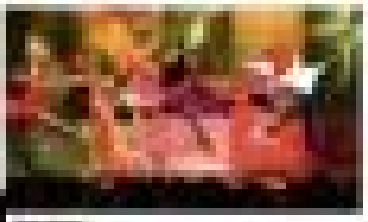
Christmas Concert
A concert series featuring the top Jpop, OPM and STEPS dancers.
December 3 - Ayala Harbor Point
December 7 - Greenbelt

Everyday Heroes
Enhance your holiday experience with special treats when you use your MasterCard to shop for those who inspire you.
November 23 - December 23

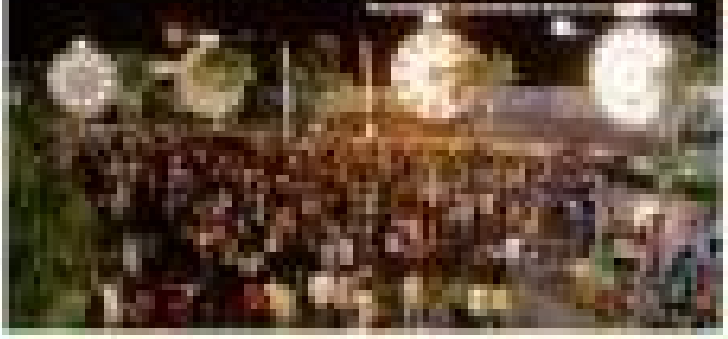
Ayala Foundation · Children's Hour · Habitat for Humanity · Hero Foundation · WWF · MasterCard



Christmas comes alive

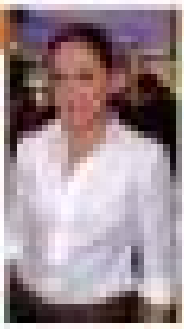


For all the Christmas rush, the shopping season might be time for optimism



Act de-ap of Black Eyes Peas headlines 'Different Heroes, Different Voices' concert

Meet the charity ambassadors



Big hearts and helping hands

Volunteer Stations encourage shoppers to share in the work of key NGO's

Young Ate Fielden spends the whole day at the Ayala Cebu Aquino Foundation (NCAF) Volunteer Station encouraging mall-goers to enlist in its programs. Her enthusiasm is so infectious that others, particularly the young shoppers, get eager about joining NCAF's tree-planting drive Mama's Watershed, the People Power Fun Run, and other advocacies.

She says most of the volunteers answering adults like herself. Rocket adds that service is a lot like visits. What she was schooled at the De la Salle-College of Saint Benilde, she had joined Matatag, the National Youth Camp for Change. She spent her internship at the NCAF and was awed by the biographies of the late President and the late Senator, their values and the sacrifices they made for the Philippines, as well as Cory's work with NCAF. Her idealism doesn't seem to have waned.

As a volunteer for NCAF, Fielden picked up leadership. Journey retreat which equipped her with values for a better future.

Says Rafael Lopa, NCAF president, "Whenever I go to the Ayala Malls I give these people a morale booster. These volunteers at the stations help out in a sincere desire to do something worthwhile. They will approach people who will usually shy away. It's amazing how these volunteers give what they can in their little way. We get sign-ups like when we start building the classrooms where they can paint."

"Others volunteers can join education-oriented processes like storytelling sessions or school feeding programs," Lopa adds.

NCAF is one of the six Volunteer Stations in the mall. The volunteers manning the booth explain the various NGOs and their causes. Their work is nothing short of heroic. Says Tit Ivan Marc Rodson, spokesman for World Wildlife Fund, "Literacy go to the-gym at Ayala Malls, and being cool in Greenbelt. Whenever I see the WWF stand, I feel people work the hardest, standing all day, trying to attract people and teach them. My heart goes to them.

"Rendezvous (fernandez) and I may be the ambassadors but the real heroes are these frontliners."

Michelle Chan, director for marketing and resource mobilization of the Hero Foundation, says mall-goers have been very responsive that aside from wanting to donate cash or books, some expressed their desire to adopt orphans of soldiers.

"The mall is a good venue," she explains. "Shoppers are not just here buying shoes and bags; they want to give benefit to others. They wonder how and who can they give it to. These Volunteer Stations have brought the foundations closer to the public.

Lory Tan, president of WWF-Philippines says that Ayala Malls has proclaimed among the best results in terms of positive response from the public.

"This is a reflection of the type of customers that go to the malls," Tan says. "Through the Volunteer Stations, there is face-to-face recruitment effort for individual donors. We invite people to make a monthly donation (in Help Us Save Our Earth campaign) using their credit card. The Ayala Malls customers are people who want to make a change.

TV host Suzi Abrera, ambassador for the Children's Hour, says that the Volunteer Stations have made people more aware of what's needed to improve the quality of life and how they can help.

"It's harder to donate time because it takes you away from your errands or the family, but it is also more valuable," she says.

The Children's Hour writes-to-ride opportunities for missionary programs with cancer-stricken children in Cebu, cleft palate patients in Davao. Meanwhile, poor children from Pampanga will be brought to Metro Manila for an education tour.

Her husband Paolo Abrera is also a spokesperson for the Children Hour. "I was talked to see that when I have more than what I need, there is an opportunity to share," he said. "There are my old shoes through our organization that can make once your wardrobe lines. Everybody shares in Christmas time."

You can volunteer in any of these foundations:

Ayala Foundation: The thrust is education, leadership and community development. One of its major programs is support big Brothers, one of the Bilangguan behind Monitors, by providing them housing, schooling, livelihood and health needs.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines: Builds homes with partner families at no profit. The monthly mortgage payments are used for the Fund for Humanity to provide more shelter to the needy.

Children's Hour: A fund-raising organization that aims to provide underprivileged Filipino children with a better life, giving them better access to quality education, quality health and nutrition.

World Wildlife Fund- WWF Philippines supports local efforts in coastal resources management, community based ecotourism, management of protected areas, and environmental environment among others. WWF's projects on species protection serve as platforms for a broader coastal management and conservation.

Hero Foundation: Provides educational assistance in the form of stipends to children of Filipino soldiers killed in action (KIA) or totally incapacitated while on the line of duty. HERE aims to help these children obtain a college degree or a certificate in a vocational course.

Bisay and Cory Foundation: NCAF is engaged to preserving the legacy and values upheld by the Aquinos, fund-raising and grant giving, and networking. Its vision is to the sponsor-Lasallo-ly Education Advocacy Campaign, which promotes the importance of education among the youth.

Each foundation will get certain information of their respective volunteers. Ayala Malls will provide the logistical requirements of these activities such as transportation and food of the volunteers. The activity will run until Dec. 15.

Also at the Christmas Volunteer Stations, inside PhilJ-related Department Stores, present P500 worth of receipts and get a Christmas shopping bag. In addition, get or give "Kalayan," a limited-edition coloring book, when you present P2,500 worth of receipts using your MasterCard. Promo runs up to Dec. 31

The Cebu volunteers make their pitch at the WWF station.

Volunteer Station in Market Market

Pay tribute to your hero

Enhance your holiday experiences with special treats when you use your Mastercard to shop for the people who inspire you.

Customers may nominate their personal heroes and express the reward they want to give for their chosen heroes. At the 'Everyday Heroes' booth run by Mastercard, customers will be given a discount coupon booklet that will entitle them to exclusive perks and discounts from MasterCard and participating Ayala Malls merchants. Thus, they can purchase the reward they would like to give to their personal heroes. Coupons are valid for purchases made from Nov. 22 to Dec. 31. The booth will be open until to Dec. 31.

Artwalk at Ayala Malls

The Center for Art, Asia Institute and Summit Development Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting greater appreciation for Philippine art, culture and the environment as well as fostering a love of books and inspiring young Filipino children. Through its exhibits and projects, Artwalk aims to showcase artworks from some of the best young contemporary Filipino artists, and make these works accessible to everyone.

As the pioneer of this initiative, Summit publishes original children's books written and illustrated by Filipino authors and artists. Among the best-selling books are Ellen and Otto Trees, and Dino by Angie Rivera and illustrated by Yvonne Tee Dee, Ang Kiyo at Ang Tunay, and Ten by Gemma Cruz Araneta and illustrated by Antonio Antonio and illustrated by Bon Ibalayloy. And, written by Agay Llanera and illustrated by Tenny del Rosario, and Zarina Lim Tuiza, illustrated by Pat Bolipata, Lito Honra and Ines Olivares-Martin.

The Artwalk is a participant of Cartwa and MasterCard, with the cooperation of the Ayala Malls, to bring these children's books close to the store children and families. Meet our everyday heroes as you walk through the pages of these books, and celebrate the values of family, hope and love. Stay aware.

Gift of choice

The act of giving presents that end up getting recycled, or figuring out the perfect gift, is of the hassle of gift wrapping? Most people are giving away gift cards that are worth like cash. In the past, gift certificates used to be the last resort, now it's the preferred present. For givers nowadays however, it's a more refined way of giving a gift that fits all rather than stressing bills as it indicates some thoughtfulness that went into it.

The electronic gift certificates such as the Ayala Malls eGCs are available in 80% affiliated merchants at Ayala Malls in several denominations. Resembling credit cards sans the embossed numbers, they can be used in over 1,500 stores across the Ayala Malls and are transferable.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Touches of Halloween, Madonna and Metallica /W1

A Christmas Village of Hope that offers exactly that

The Tugonons' miniature holiday setup at SM City Cebu helps cheer up sick kids in more ways than one

By Cherlie V. Moral

IT STARTED out as a personal indulgence. Eighteen years ago, Joji Tugonon set up a miniature Christmas village in her own home in Cebu. It had seven musical pieces.

The following year, she added seven more, building her collection little by little for her own enjoyment. On one trip to the United States, she found so many miniature model pieces that she came home with 60 bubblepack boxes!

Then came the craze of online shopping, such that her sister modern holiday village set would eventually grow to 440 pieces, with moving trains and motorized cars, and dozens of miniature figurines, now worth about P3 million. Tugonon's husband, Clayton, a Cebu furniture designer and manufacturer, had also come onboard to design the massive lotsy village.

The Tugonons' elaborate Tugon Christmas Village of Hope, as it has become known, is now on view in a mall setting for the first time at SM City Cebu, unveiled last weekend by the Tugonons with SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy and his sister, Elizabeth Sy, president of SM Hotels and Conventions, gracing the event.

"At first, I just did it for my enjoyment, and it's my raison and madness," Tugonon recalls. But in 2008, a foundation that supports kids with asthma asked if she was willing to receive the kids at her home to view the collection. She said yes. Then someone suggested the thing fit in a public venue.

"It has also gotten so big for the house. But for security reasons, we couldn't receive that many guests in our house," she recalls.

The general manager of a Cebu hotel used about her collection in a magazine article and offered the hotel as venue. The Tugonons were initially reluctant, but eventually said yes, with one condition: that the setup should have a charity component.

The hotel agreed: Each miniature house and train will be up for "adoption" to benefit children with cancer.

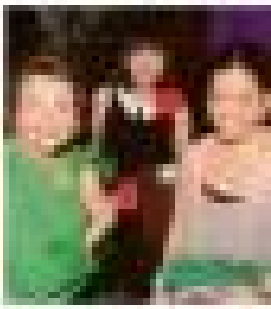
Cancer awareness

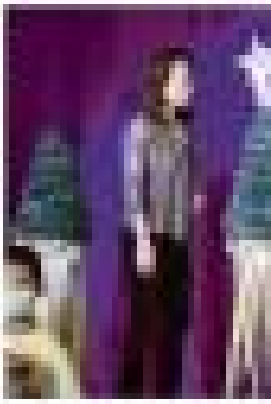
Tugonon knows intimately one pediatric cancer patient. The child of their nanny, who lives with them, is afflicted with the disease. Tugonon, who is childless, often accompanied the child to her

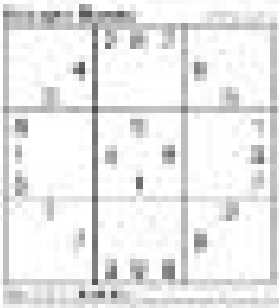
CONTINUED ON...

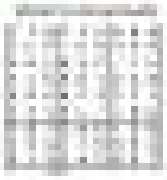
Joji and Clayton Tugonon's Christmas Village of Hope is open with seven musical pieces. On view for the first time in a mall, it occupies 70 square meters of SM City Cebu's bustling atrium.

A Christmas Village of Hope that offers exactly that

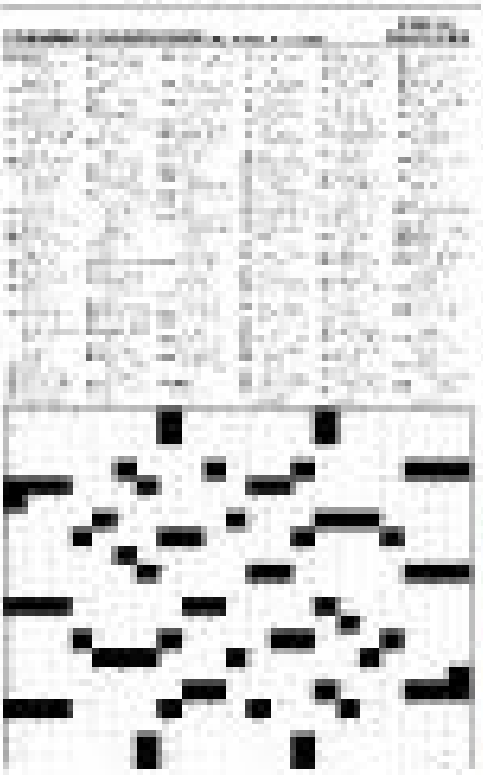




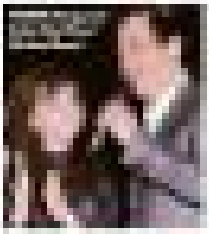


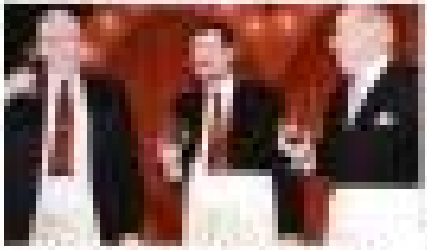


Sunday Crossword

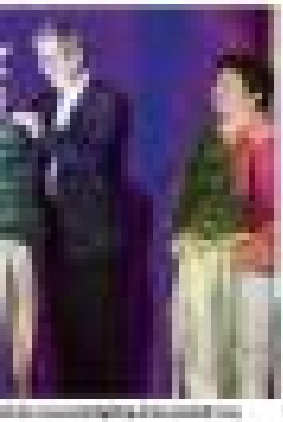


Sensational Soiree Beaujolais celebrates the best of France

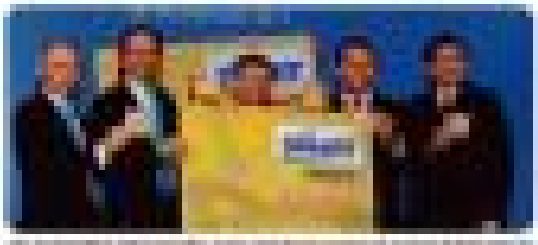


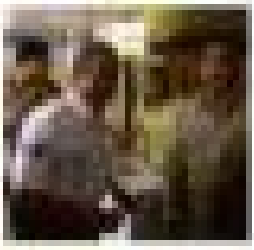


PHILAM LIFE



A PLDT Global Strategy for Every
Overseas Pinoy





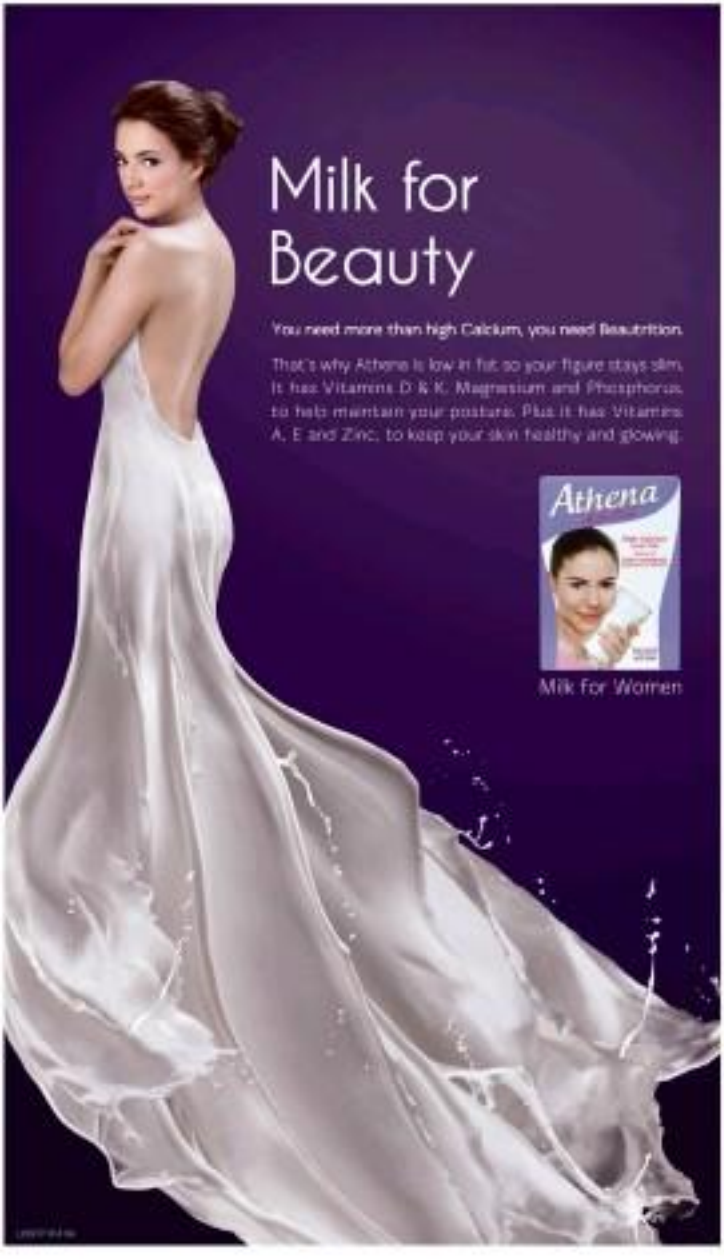
Fil-Am tenor Sal Malaki in homecoming concert

FILIPINO: Actor/singer Sal Malaki

SPEEN and Glenna Malaki, Glenda Miro-Antonio, Ryoril Hara and Grace Nergara

THE founding lady president and CEO of her own financial consulting company, Glenda Miro Antonio of Talisay, Cebu is highly regarded as a leading innovator in the region's financial health. She is an advocate in planning for institutional sustainability for religious organizations, congregations and schools.

Antonio's Spring Back Global Consultancy goes far beyond the usual concerns of the money bag experts. She aims at breaking the cycle of poverty and "donor fatigue" syndrome among the marginalized sectors of fundraisers and benefactors. She provides the expertise and advocacy for both the sentenced parties in mandating the new science of philanthropy and stewardship which she gained from her studies at Indiana University to work more efficiently and productively as well in terms of ROI and other forms of re-



wards, income tree, etc.

She illustrates this in the coming fundraiser for the Oblate Universalist Mission Help Incluster billed "Christmas Showers of Grace," a series of homecoming concerts by Filipino American tenor Sal Malaki, the only Filipino member of the LA Master Chorale and the Los Angeles Opera, 10th-6th largest opera house under the baton of Placido Domingo. Guest soprano are Tricia Harper-Jimenez and Kris John-Neal Gonzales. The concert will be on Dec. 11, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at San Thomas MEC Bldg., ECP Complex, Pasay City.

Pursue your passions—and get rewarded with discounts

SMART subscribers are diverse individuals with eclectic passions, which is why the country's leading telecommunications company seeks to nurture existing interests, or help them cultivate new ones. With Smart Rewards, not only can subscribers get freebies and treats from a variety of establishments, they also get inspired to take up new hobbies through exclusive offers. Existing Smart Prepaid, Postpaid and Broadband users can avail of Smart Rewards that best suit their lifestyle.

Over a dozen participating merchants are offering special deals.

For sports, certain equipment and accessories are discounted. The shops, coupon codes, and offers are as follows: Tokyo (Coupon Code: 22, 10 percent off on 6 marked items), Sportsbazaar (Coupon Code: 23, 10 percent off on regular items), Orbi Sports (Coupon Code: 78, 5 percent off on regular items), Freebird (Coupon Code: 57, 10 percent off on regular items), Angry by Badminton Hub (Coupon Code: 428, 10 percent off on select brands), Yonex Shop (Coupon Code: 429, 10 percent off on regular items), and Union Alley Sports Shop (Coupon Code: 643, 10 percent off on regular items).

Aspiring photographers can use their Smart Rewards on special items and services at Kamera world (Coupon Code: 84, 10 percent off on digital printing and studio services, etc.), and Canon D Zone (Coupon Code: 77, 10 percent off on compact, video and SLR cameras).

Those dreaming of whipping up feasts will be pleased that cooking equipment and utensils are also discounted. Participating shops are Xuilling, M. Honduelo (Coupon Code: 300, 10 percent on regular items) and Kitchenpro (Coupon Code: 145, 10 percent off on regular items).

Fitness buffs and active lifestyle enthusiasts are also entitled to special discounts at Alley Shop (Coupon Code: 433, 10 percent off on fitness equipment Session), Movement Dance Studio (Coupon Code: 456, free dance lesson, 10 percent off on Dance Unlimited Program), and 360 Fitness Club (Coupon Code: 503, 10 percent off on membership rates).

Qualified Smart Prepaid and Postpaid subscribers can enjoy special privileges by joining Smart Rewards for free. Simply text "REWARDS" to 9666. Smart Bro subscribers can sign up at myportal.com.ph. To avail of exclusive gifts like discounts or freebies, simply text "EXPLORE <Code#>" to 9666 (P1 per download).

Sunday LIFESTYLE

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ My recipe for graceful aging T3

How we made it to the December cover of Philippine Tatler

My three kids had to be bribed to pose since they are not as paparazzi-friendly as their outrageous mother

TESSY!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ON THE FIRST day of the Christmas month, the editor of Philippine Tatler magazine and my dear friend **Aaron Jose Dhegas** delivered our copy of the mag's December issue. I have been eagerly awaiting the Christmas issue ever since Aaron told me a couple of weeks ago that my family had been chosen for the cover.

Between our hectic schedules, my husband Dennis and I found time for the Tatler photoshoot, handled with consummate expertise by our photographer **Tessa Eggerman** at the Nanian's Department Store. My three kids had to be bribed to pose since they are not as paparazzi-friendly as their mom, gimme mother. Unfortunately, my eldest son Bryan is in Singapore and so could not join our family photo.

Fresh from the gala show of LA.-based designer **Oliver Tolentino**, my beautiful, Inchka-embellished gown was complemented by the pearly cream gown of our eldest daughter, Sandra, made for her by talented young designer **Simon Jimenez** for the Ford Country Gala.

Our youngest, sweet Alyssa, wore a dainty, ruffled dress from Patricia's. Of course, the boys just wore their own stuff. As Dennis says, no one ever minds what the boys wear. Boys just have to make sure they don't step on the girls' gowns.

Family traditions

Tatler December features various families sharing their Christmas traditions and beautiful, holiday table settings. My favorite designer duo, **Ricky Eduale** and **Chito Viñadero**, prepare a Hanseatic-styled spread in their stylish home.

Here, lifestyle shop owners **Aarly**

PHILIPPINE Tatler December 2002 cover girl Tess Prieto-Valdes, Tatler's 2011 Christmas issue with the Valdes family

TATLER friends Janis Pena, Patrick Reyno, Patsi and Sofia Elizalde, Shanti Bernaad, Tecla Regodon, Rose-Marie Ingrid, Mia Borromeo and Fernando Zobel

PHILIPPINE Tatler managing director Irene Francisco with Tatler awardees Nick Ipsip, Che Che Madrigal, Joe and Lisa Bayot, Josie Meier Lilledy Tantoco, Rosario Cabangon and Barrie Gandelaga

HOME lifestyle shop #1.17 owners Raya Tinga and Andy Vicquiro Prada

How we made it to the December cover of Philippine Tatler

PHILIPPINE Tatler editor Arlene Ilan Diego and Rosanna Peters

HOST Lyndah dela Rama Tolentino and Chito Viajedor

STYLISH divers Rea and Marga Vidler

WONDERFUL couple Mina and Armin Wong

TOWN & Country editor in chief Cristy Fernandez, at top right, DK Magazine's Belinda Mercado and Elaine Halstead, below, Pension Magazine's Beauty editor Agnes Bengzon

Margaret Prada also showcases a wonderful little selling. Together with Rose Tinga, Andy recently opened W.17, a stunning shop selling beautiful, handcrafted bamboo and bone accessories. Check out the home store for special Christmas gifts at Mezzhouse 378, La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

It may be serendipity, but I remember getting the cover of Tatler in December 2001. Tatler recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, so I guess I have been part of the Tatler family since its inception. I still remember that pictorial, with the late designer Inday Tyrosano cutting me in a long Christmas tree while kinnara Pity Tyrosano did the photographs.

Arlene and Tatler managing director Irene Wurtel Francisco have truly established the magazine as the leading chronicler of luxury lifestyles in the country. Everything about the publication spells class and excellence. Beautiful persons and interesting features grace every issue, and it has beautiful ads as bonus!

Exclusive affair

The 10th anniversary was extra special for the Tatler team. Their much-anticipated ball at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel was, as always, a hyperventilation-ady affair and thus, a most precious commodity for the social set.

After champagne cocktails at the Shangri's mezzanine, guests proceeded to the elegant ballroom, filled with beautiful arrangements of exotic flowers and 200 especially made votive candles in Tatler's signature scent. Of course, I missed the whole cocktail as I was still at Bangkok's Tatler. Poor assistant Irene Ortega applied her magic on my face and awarding-winning stylist Danny Batallan worked on my sky-high hairdo.

As always, designer Rajo Laurel and I had a creative challenge for my half-gown, 50-dozen threads of fabric and accessories to encompass into the gown, and every year, Rajo gets more and more ingenious.

We've tried silk leaves, recycled plastic and included from before. This year, we used accordion lampshade cut into feathers and re-shaped and then painted, and molded onto a strapless bodice. The piece de resistance was the addition of LED lighting, which shows how fashion can sometimes borders and electronics to push the envelope.

Completing my evening look were the new Jimmy Choo Fragrance, bracelet last month at Harrods's Makati. The famous shoemaker has now a scent to be known by all.

The Shangri-La team, led by GM Yeoh Khaneen, once again delivered a sumptuous menu that had a touch of Spain as the catering Bistro Bistro, each is cuadro de Blanchapo with aged cheese bun and a succulent mountain lamb, the entrees were all complemented with fine wines from Chile.

Sidetracted threatens

Tatler's celebration was high-lighted with a telecasted fashion show to build 10 images for the ball's beneficiary Habitat for Humanity Philippines. This is why I love auctions. Habitat for Humanity got a generous donation that evening as Tan Yap sold and raised the bids for all the fabulous items.

Dividing and delivering Habitat Alter was an active bidder with generous Emerson Tan donating the Jaeger-LeCoultre Memovox Deep Sea automatic watch he won for P1 million. And that's just by one of the auction items!

THE PHILIPPINE Tatler team headed by managing director Irene Muriel Francisco and editor-in-chief Arlene Ilan Diego

Everyone is always active in charity. He Lucena Watch Group has a special Christmas tree in the Dusit Thani Hotel lobby this year. Please "like" their tree on Facebook so they can spread good cheer this season.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Philippine Tatler awards given to exemplary members of society. The awardees included Pinoy Swing, king of hobbyist; Josie Natori, Fernando Amorsolo; Charlie Madrigal, Quezon Power; Mandy Ilabaca Tantoco, Most Stylish Lady; Kenneth Gillingham, Corporate Power; and Jun and Lisa Bayot, Distinguished Couple.

Jessica and I were at the table of Susan Infante. We were thrilled to be sitting beside was Ann Curtis and Rafa Gutierrez, winning Style Legend and Future One, respectively. Many partners for the magnificent Tatler Ball were Cristy Fernandez, Mercedes Benz, Susan Infante and Vita.

Follow Rose on Twitter @rosesarabia or e-mail her at rose@philippinetatler.com.ph.

LOVELY ladies Mandy Tabacaba, Rose-Marie Ingrid, Mia Borromeo, Marilen Bich Soler, Kit Zobel and Leah Puyat

SMART Infinity family Margie Cabarrubias, Ruth Tsai, Joel and Clarence Ong

WITH Emerson and Lingling Tan

ELEGANT on Friday Cruz, Brenda Gokson, Ching Cruz and Gene Fitzpatrick of Hong Kong Tatler

SMART Infinity friends Nina Zamarron, Erman Hanwell, Bella Gutierrez, Sea Princess, Mary Gomez, Tito Paje, Annie Curtis and Mia Alonzo

DO HEROINES head Jessy Concepcion and lovely wife Marissa with Dennis Valdes

BRIDESMAIDS Tatler team Nicole Ortega, Dawn Hamilton, Sea Princess and Tang Rivera

THE GORGEOUS Cassie Gallegos and Sarina Phillips of Horizon Commercial Corp., Daphne Oseña-Paez and Prestige Beauty president/manager Bernadette Alim

PRESTIGE Brands Philippines CEO Vinod Dadlani, Nova Prieto-Valdes, Alexis Van Iseun, transportation Asia Pacific airport manager, and Ronald Brinton, transportation, Asia Pacific managing director

BRITISH Embassy Trade and Investment director and Trade and Investment manager Derek Page and Steve Gaunt (left); Prestige Brands Philippines CEO Vinod Dadlani and Cassie Gallegos of Horizon Commercial Corp.

MEGAN Young, Phumzile Barends and [illegible] Ms. Universe 1st runner-up Melissa Gilmartin

Buy a watch, help build homes

SWATCH Philippines has teamed with the Habitat Youth Council to create a limited edition Habitat Watch by Swatch that will be launched on Dec. 7 at The Gallery, Greenbelt 5.

Designed to reflect the colors of this year's Christmas season, the silver and gold Habitat watch also symbolizes the generous spirit of Filipinos. With only 3,000 watches up for auction, the Habitat Watch by Swatch helps Christmas shopping in line with charity giving.

"It never fails to amaze me how much happiness we could generate just by buying a watch," says Isabel Marvel Francisco, Habitat Youth Council President. "The funds procured will be used for the construction of houses during the Youth Build 2011 next year."

The Youth Council, composed of Isabel Marvel Francisco, Kevin Yang, Pedro T. Roxas, Simon Tanwoo, cofounded and chaired by Ms. Roxas, serves as a Youth Capital Campaign Cabinet that drives youth leadership in social development. Through the leadership of the Youth Council, young people have raised funds and led projects that have helped repair the lives of Filipino families in need, provided opportunities for youth to be actively involved and establish avenues for partnership and collaboration. The Habitat Youth program has a youth-led Disaster Response for Relief, Rehabilitation and Development.

Proceeds from the sale of the Habitat Watch by Swatch will be used during Youth Build 2011. On May 13, 2011, Habitat for Humanity Philippines will gather 2,000 volunteers to build 200 homes in Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City. This is a part of the Asia Pacific-wide simultaneous build event in 5 countries—China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) is a non-profit organization that serves Filipino families in need of decent homes. It brings together partners who share the same vision of transforming lives through building responsible and sustainable communities. Established in 1988, HFHP is a

country affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International based in Georgia, USA. For 23 years, HFHP has served over 32,000 families throughout the country. HFHP envisions that every Filipino family has a decent place to live. Visit www.habitat.org.ph or www.facebook.com/habitatphilippines for more details.

HABITAT watch by Swatch

ANGEL Francisco and Anne Rodriguez were among volunteers who joined Habitat for Humanity Philippines' Chairman Emeritus Cory Quirino and Gawad Kalinga founder Tito Arevalo in building homes for the poor in Tondo, Manila, last Saturday. Habitat for Humanity Philippines will gather 2,000 volunteers to build 200 homes in Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City, on May 13, 2011. This is a part of the Asia Pacific-wide simultaneous build event in 5 countries—China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WHAT'S UP

Talent search is on

STA. LUCIA Malls' "The Story of Tinkerphat, Bel Children and Boredom" talent search is open to all male and female aspirants without age requirement. Entry forms are available at the mall's Art & Promo Department until 5:00 p.m. 13, 2012. 5 p.m. 6 p.m. Attach a recent 2R photo of you're candidate. Only the first 80 registrants to submit the forms with complete requirements will join the elimination rounds. Each contestant must perform for at most five minutes, and provide ten (10) cds back-up. Prizes in the grand finals are P5,000 cash and P5,000 worth of gift certificates for the first place; P3,000 cash and P3,000 gift certificates, second; P2,000 cash and P2,000 gift certificates for the third prize winner. Sta. Lucia Mall is along Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal. Call 6815681.

Gift wrapping and box making seminar

The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on gift wrapping on Dec. 16, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the behind the College of Social Work and Community Development, Magsaysay Ave., corner Yanan St., University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. Seminar participants will learn how to make corporate gift presentation giveaways, new traditional gifts, ribbon decorating, box making and many more. Discussions on how to fabricate your own box and pattern-making and actual gift wrapping with coats, bag making without the guests, bag with guests, t-shirt bag, among others will be held.

Lunch and snacks will be served and all the workshop materials will be provided. A certificate of completion will be handed to participant after the seminar. For inquiries, call 4211101, 4061806 and 09 38551 ing-ania-nuna Calderma; ianadeto.com.

Manila Archbishop-elect Tagle and Cardinal Rosales lead Cavite diocese jubilee celebrations

THE DIOCESE of Imus will have 121 priests with the ordination of five deacons on Dec. 6, 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Pillar in Imus, Cavite. This was announced by Cavite Bishop and Manila Archbishop-elect Luis Antonio Tagle during his homily on Nov. 25 opening the jubilee year of the diocese. Attended by 22 bishops, 200 priests and presided by Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, the Eucharistic celebration gathered a thousand people inside and 500 guests that included former Ambassador to the Vatican Tito de Villa, Papal Nuncio Giuseppe Pinto reconfirmed.

The ordained are Oscar de la Peña, Joseph Wapalla, Ryan Imralla, Nasir, Mark Anthony Bruno, and Eric Dimalla. The Diocese of Imus has 64 parishes, 83 religious congregations with 89 male religious and 639 women religious. Among those are the Daughters of St. Dorothea in Tagaytay who are building a Thanksgiving Mass on Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. with Tagle as main celebrant.

No jubilee without Jesus

"There is no Jubilee without Jesus," Archbishop Tagle said. "We have to be reunited to Jesus. We will be in one faith during this Jubilee. Jesus is the Jubilee. He is our Jubilee today and forever. We are truly children of God. Jesus Jesus poverty, Jesus Jesus sin."

Archbishop Tagle said, "I realized from the late Bishop Antonio Cesar (first Bishop of Imus) is here with us. His spirit continues to dwell here in this cathedral." Teary-eyed, Tagle recalled the bishops of the diocese of who have contributed to its growth: the late Bishop Pedro Pareja whose tomb and sculptures were present during the Jubilee Mass, and Bishop Emeritus Manuel Sobrevilas

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

who officiated the Concelebrated Mass honoring Our Lady of Soledad de Pura Vega on Nov. 23 at 9 a.m. in San Roque Church.

Order of Malta chapel blessed

The chapel of the Order of Malta Philippines along R. Hidalgo in Quiapo was blessed last Dec. 7, feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

Cardinal Rosales, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Manila, was main celebrant with the magisterial chaplains of the order, namely Msgr. Joshua Lo and Fr. Gerardo Ilarde. The other priests were Fr. Baltazar Olmo, superior of the Franciscan Order; Fr. Andrew Llapo, OFM Cap. parish priest of Our Lady of the Abandoned; and Fr. Boyd Bulgado, DP.

The chapel is dedicated to Our Lady of Philoremos whose icon was supposed to have been painted by St. John in Ephesus. The Hospitaller Knights found the icon in the fortress island of Rhodes in the Central Mediterranean where they relocated when they fled the Holy Land during the Crusades.

Donated altar

The altar which belonged to Doña Macaria Madrigal de Leon was donated by her children Mary de Leon and Joe Vincent de Leon. Doña Macaria was a Dame of Magistral Grace of the Order of Malta. Also on the altar is a statue of Blessed Pier Giorgio, founder of the Order of Malta in Jerusalem in the 20th century.

Dr. Leopoldo Lazarte was inducted as Knights of Magistral Grace during the event. Present were the "dames" and "knights" of the order.

Sacerdotal anniversaries

A number of priests are marking their sacerdotal anniversaries in December.

Marking 50 for Fr. Diosdado Cayas will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sanctuario Del Sinaling Center in Lapeo Village, Los Baños.

Fr. Bridge Casas will celebrate his 40th anniversary on Dec. 25 at the San Carlos Seminary Parish in Mahatao, Batanes.

Fr. Boyet Concepcion, parish priest of Bolbok, Balaoan is inviting friends and parishioners to his 25th anniversary Mass on Dec. 18, 10 a.m.

Joyful Mysteries for Algeria

After praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary for the intentions of the Philippines today, let us pray the Joyful Mysteries tomorrow for Algeria for the repeal of the Ordinance of 2006 that regulates the exercise of religious other than Islam; for the establishment of the order in close down churches in Bejaia province; for renewal of the visas of priests and religious still; for people of goodwill to act with justice and mercy unrestrainedly, and for every believer in Christ to follow Him faithfully.

Christmas wishes of children

Tessa Bert Tordjes, the indefatigable promoter and general manager of Jade Vine Restaurant & Executive Inn, is get-ting the matter of Christmas. "Christmas is all about making children happy," he said. "And so it was that the board of Jade Vine put up a huge Christmas tree at the lobby last Nov. 15 where children aged 12 and below subscribe an accompanying parent receipt of P500 are given a paper Christmas tree leaf where they can write their wishes.

Judges including journalist Jullie Yap Daza will consider creativity and sincerity. Deadline of hanging wishes on the tree is Dec. 22. Prizes are P5,000 (First prize); P2,000 (second prize); and

THE KNIGHTS and Knights of the Order of Malta pose with Knights in Cardinal Rosales (center, seated) in the new Chapel of Our Lady of Philoremos in R. Hidalgo, Quiapo. Beside the Cardinal are former Ambassador to the Vatican Mely Vera and now Knight Dr. Leopoldo Lazarte and his wife Cherry Pie Lazarte. Also in photo are Msgr. Esteban Lo and Fr. Gerardo Ilarde. At right, Lazarte's investiture as Knight of Magistral Grace with Cardinal Rosales as sponsor. Behind the Cardinal are Fr. Boyd Bulgado, DP, Fr. Andrew Llapo, OFM Cap., Fr. Baltazar Olmo, OFM Cap., Msgr. Joshua Lo and Msgr. Gerardo Ilarde. | PHOTOS BY JOSEPHINE BARCENAS

gift certificates (third). Winners will be announced on Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. For info on gift vouchers, food to go and baked delights, call 524-0401 to 05.

Christmas carols

The Chorus Angelicus headed by Francis Baldi of Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish in Sta. Ana will hold a fundraising concert on Dec. 18, 7 p.m., at the Don Bosco Technical College Auditorium.

Titled "One Voice, One Harmony: A Night of Serenades and Carols," the concert intends to raise funds for the construction of the Basilica of Quiapo. For tickets, text 0906-345-1603 or call 364-4283.

Kamanwikan Christmas reunion

Batanes belonging to the Kamanwikan Foundation will gather in a Christmas reunion on Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Manila Greenhills Country Club. President is Liza Marcos-Araneta.

Advent is about waiting that is joyful, other-centered

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

THE TWO great feasts of the Catholic Church are preceded by a period of preparation. Christmas, which celebrates the humanity of Christ, is anticipated by the Advent seasons, and Easter, which celebrates the divinity of Christ, has the Lenten season as its preparatory period. Both periods of preparation is a time to reflect and prep a time for repentance and reconciling with God.

The dictionary defines advent as the coming of an important person or event, and Advent, as a religious term, as "the birth of Christ, the second coming of Christ, the season including the four Sundays before Christmas." For our purpose, i.e., for reflection and prayer, we will look at Advent as the coming of Christ into our life or a renewal of our relationship with Christ, especially the Christ who is Most Intimate, the God-with-us, the Emmanuel.

Advent is always associated with the concept of waiting, a waiting characterized by joyful expectation. The late Fr. Jan Dziadzko, S.J., our Assistant professor in the seminary, has a homily entitled "The Sacrament of Waiting." He opens up with three lines:

"The English poet John Milton once wrote that those who serve stand and wait. I think I would go further and say that those who wait render the highest form of service. Waiting requires many disciplines, more self-control and emotional maturity, more unshakeable faith in our cause, more unwavering hope in the future, more sustaining love in our hearts than all the great deeds of derring-do that go by the name of action."

Qualities

Discipline, self-control and emotional maturity are qualities we would not normally associate with a seemingly mundane task such as waiting. There, though, are the qualities of waiting that Advent exhorts us to develop. But allow me to share those qualities one focus, which is the discipline, self-control and emotional maturity that makes one grow from being self-centered to other-centered.

I recall Fr. Dziadzko's example to class when we discussed his homily on waiting. He differentiated between the person who impatiently waits, complaining how the delay has inconvenienced him/her, and the person who patiently waits, trusting that the other who is late has a good reason, or even waiting with concern for the other who is late because unfortunate has happened to the other.

Much more than we imagine, waiting does require tremendous attentiveness—and thus great discipline, self-control and emotional maturity. For us adults, we still such patiently waiting, but for us innocent child it is waiting with joyful expectation, childlike awe and wonder as he/she waits for the "surprise" to reveal itself.

Last year, I bought a Christmas decoration for my three-year-old ward. It was a stuffed toy Christmas tree that danced to a Christmas carol when you pressed it. I had it wrapped, since the little boy enjoyed opening gifts.

You could see the childlike awe and wonder in his face when he saw the wrapped gift. Then his eyes continued to sparkle in anticipation of seeing the gift itself. He removed the card from the gift, untied the ribbon, tore the wrapper, and opened the box. At that moment, when the gift revealed itself, he exclaimed, "Wow, a Christmas toy! Thank you, Ti!"

The waiting that is other-centered, this will surprise us each joy and gratitude and allows us to be childlike again in our attitude to the child-dream in our life. It moves us to embrace life's gift: silence.

Opposite

There is a saying in Filipino, "naghihintay sa wala" (literally waiting for nothing; waiting in vain). The opposite is the person of the Christian waiting. It is a wait in faith and hope. The "unshakable faith in our cause" and the "unwavering hope for the future" are what define the Christian spirit, and which the Advent season makes us remember and renew.

In the Nazi concentration camps of World War II, it was later on discovered that those who survived the ordeal did so because they all believed they still had something meaningful to do in their life. Whether it was to see and be reunited with family and loved ones or to fight for a cause, there were the survivors whose human spirit could not be crushed by the cruelest of human acts. This is the power of waiting in faith and hope.

The season of Advent is a time of waiting. It is a waiting that renews our hope, that things can work in our favor and that we can live a better life in our Philippine society. It is a waiting that reconnects us with the deepest values that we hold dear as a people, our love for family and our faith in God; values which make us desire for freedom and a better life.

Her perhaps there is more to believe in and to hope for. Perhaps our waiting invites us to go beyond "the great deeds of derring-do that go by the name of action" and bring to life the "more sustaining love in our hearts."

It is a time for renewal. We look forward to and hope for better things, search for people and institutions to believe in, long for meaning and a mission worth dedicating our life to with great love. There is much to hope for and work on. This Advent we can start to "be the change we want to see in our world." (Gandhi)

Should be tell his wife he's in love with someone else?

Without love and kids, what future is there to look forward to in your marriage?

EMELY'S POST

Emily A. Marcos

DEAR EMILY,

I am 35 years old and married for eight years—no kids. My wife is only two years younger than me. My problem started five years ago when I had my first affair with an office woman. I was 30 then and she was 45. She was separated from her husband and had two grown children living with her who were both professionals. I found security and maturity in my older lover. It felt good to be with someone who didn't have any inhibitions and was not childish.

Our relationship lasted mostly a year until my wife caught me red-handed through my e-mails. I admitted my mistake and, though I broke up my affair, I also lost my doctor for my wife.

Then, a year ago, I met this lady in an employment agency for OFWs. She is three years older than me and a single mom with two kids from different fathers. She is a wonderful lady and we really get along well. I fell in love with her because she has the qualities that I know will make me happy for the rest of my life. My problem is, I have not admitted my feelings to this new girl. I am worried that our friendship would complicate the fact that I am still married. Since I met this girl, I've never made love to my wife.

In five months, this new girl and I will be leaving for abroad and start a new career there. We will be staying in the same house offered by our agency. My wife can only be with me after I've settled in my own place in about six months. I want to break up with my wife while I am trying to rebuild myself. My wife really loves me, but I don't feel the same way toward her anymore.

Should I leave her before I leave for abroad, or just let fate to take its course? Is it still right to be with someone you don't love anymore and spend the rest of your life with her just because you are married, despite not having kids?

—Miserable OFW

No, it's not right! Honesty is still the best policy. Why prolong this charade of a marriage if there's no love left anymore for one of you. Tell your wife how you really feel about her. It will hurt her like crazy—her world will clearly come tumbling down—but you'd be giving her another lease in life.

What future is there to look forward to in this marriage? There is no love or children to hold you together! You may have been in love once, but you have turned into two strangers bound together by just a piece of paper called a marriage certificate. What a farce.

As for this new woman—you're only sure her economic and already you are proclaiming she has the qualities that will make you happy for the rest of your life? Truly and honestly? Why then did she have two kids from two fathers? Doesn't that tell you a bit about her impulsive or indecisive character? Can she see herself with you in her bedroom as you do her in yours?

There's much too much hypocrisy in the world, and adding your name to it surely un-conscionable.

Your wife may still see cruel for telling her the truth. However, it is oftentimes kinder to be cruel in manner of the heart. Then one dump him that'll see all the cruelty of a protracted suffering—it's not also her kinder.

E-mail emarcos@inquirer.com.ph or emarcos629@gmail.com, subject: Ejlife/pls.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

TRIPLE TREAT, TRIPLE THREAT:
Quiksilver, DC and Roxy make a worthy comeback

DISCOVER THE ROXY GIRL IN EVERY ONE

Women ain't no sidekick when it comes to action sports and this brand is back to prove it

Pastillon beach bag

Longboard

Bandeau bikini top

Bandeau bikini bottom

Navarre 2 boardshorts

Navy Cadet

Narrow wallet

ROXY IN NUMBERS

- 1990: The year Quiksilver launched Roxy, its sister brand for young women
- 1/3: Number of women who make up the Roxy Surf Team
- 1993: The year the ever-popular Roxy logo tee-worn, sheer-draped coat adapted from the recognizable Quiksilver logo
- 1997: The first boardwalking Roxy store was opened in Hawaii
- 2011: The year that Roxy came back to the Philippines, exclusively distributed by Primer Group of Companies

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ROXY

- Roxy is the name of the daughter of Quiksilver founder Alan Green.
- Roxy surfwear makes its mark in the silver screen in movies such as "Blue Crush 2" and "Chalet Girl."
- Roxy is proud to be the largest corporate sponsor of women's surfing worldwide.
- Roxy enjoyed its New York Fashion week debut at "The Girl's Pulse Show in 1999.
- The Roxy spirit is "daring, confident, naturally beautiful, fun, ultra"

DC in EXPANSION MODE

'Lifestyle Collection' strengthens brand's reach; perhaps the perfect gifts for the season

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

If the 11 DC stores in the Philippines—the most in any Southeast Asian country—is any indication, then the shoe and lifestyle brand is headed for a pretty wicked holiday season this year.

Further asserting its dominance in Manila, DC blows last week its expansion mode all through and this year in fact, a fifth DC store is set to open in Robinsons Mall Ermita this December, in time for the busiest gift-giving season in town.

But DC did Asians, this is the second time that a DC flagship store is located adjacent with a Undefeated shop. Short one year to literally, pairing together two fresh-faced action sports power that are only bound by individuals who seek thrill and excitement on an everyday basis.

"The two brands together are, quite simply, more powerful. DC has expanded its reach, moving from providing the ultimate in skateboarding shoes to corporate-chic cover both men and women and even toddlers," said Hideyo Ito, DC brand associate.

Today, DC's product line also includes lifestyle shoes, apparel, snowboards, snowboard boots, outerwear and accessories.

Along with the evolution of its product line comes changes in how its stores look. DC's most recent stores feature an all-black concept, giving it a more sophisticated ambience matched by neon vibes.

"To say that DC has gone a long way would be an understatement. DC was introduced to the world in 1992. In the Philippines, our oldest store (located in Tektonic) would turn three years old in 2012," Ito said.

Since its debut, DC has pioneered trademarked skateboarding footwear technologies that include Super Gumlite™, DST™ (Dynamic Grip Technology Drop-In Cushion System™), and DC's trademarked Pill Traction sole, among many others.

Launched this year is the "Life Collection" series that added shoe sneakers and fashion footwear to DC's wide array of action sports-inspired footwear. More items such as rising-sleeved polos, jeans, chinos and tees in hotter are added to DC's roster of high-quality street chic wear. With the holiday season in full swing, the season to be the place to get presents by loved ones who want something exciting and exhilarative.

For the avant-garde, there's the DC x Skillhouse Spartan Hi Shoe—a limited edition shoe wherein each pair comes with free Skullcandy earphones specially designed for DC. Then, there's the DC Gondor Polo in Black, a ostensibly polo that has a different pattern on either side. This double layer top is made of 100 percent cotton, making it extra comfortable for all the Christmas parties you'll be attending this season.

Also worth checking out is the DC Watch in Union Blue/White, a casual yet chic but distinct street fashion, sporting DC's Pill Pattern Outsole made of widely soft rubber to withstand slippery surfaces, perfect for the beach bum.

But even with the many changes that DC has gone through—and will go through, it has stayed true to its original mission of making sports-wear changes.

From skateboarding, DC has also become the provider of high-quality shoes and apparel in BMX, motocross, snowboarding, surfing, and other athletic activities.

To wrap: "This year, DC went on expansion mode. Next year, we'll be hosting more grassroots campaigns that is sure to further strengthen the brand and dedicate push itself as the best at what it does."

DC is exclusively distributed by Prince Group of Companies and is a subsidiary brand of Quiksilver Inc. To know more about DC, check out www.dc-shoes.com and www.facebook.com/dcshoes.ph.

DC Big Bear Beanie in Navy

DC Bespoke Cinch Bag

DC Cap Snapper 2 Royal Blue

DC Water Bottle 1 Liter in Black Green and in Red Black

DC Released Hi Skulls early Footwear Collaboration comes with free earphones

Marquise Henry

DC Mens Darrick Polo in Black DC Mens Pilot Polo in Off White

DC Mens Studio in Dusk Denim

DC Winch Shoe in Ensign Blue/White

DC Mens Birk Chinook in Black

DC Mens Rowan in Caramel

DC Backpack Parkrow DC Mens Diagram ss in Bright Red DC Mens Breakmaker ss in DC Navy

DC IN NUMBERS

8 The number of DC Categories currently skateboarding, motocross, action rally, BMX, snowboarding, surfing, lifestyle and training.

11 The number of DC Stores in the Philippines to date, the most in South Asia.

40 The number of DC Co-Founder and Clothing Athlete Ken Block, which we can find many DC fans Block fans/admire.

1993 The year DC is founded. DC started as a Men's Footwear brand for skateboarding.

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DC:

DC is founded by Danny Way and Ken Block. Both are exemplary athletes in their own sports. Danny a renowned skateboard Rider and Ken a rallier.

The DC Gymkhana 4 Video launched this August 2011 is the #1 Viral Video of the Year. It gained 1 million views within the 24 hours after its release.

The DC Flag logo is the symbol for DC Core Skateboarding. We have a handful of products that also carried a logo just for the Core Skateboard category.

DC has developed footwear technologies for every action sports enthusiast, some of which are the Super Gumlite TM which makes your shoe 50 percent more durable than regular rubber, and the Sticky Rubber Outsole that allows shoes to grip tightly on the surface.

DC Athletes are classified into two: The Pros and the Semi. The Pro's consist of Travis Pastrana, Chris Cole, Josh Kalis and more. Whereas the Semi's consist of Marquise Henry and Evan Smith, among others.

DC Womens Bridon/Canvas in Dark Shadow and Salt Lime

DC Womens Rebound Hi in Black Cerulean

DC Womens Anvil High LE in Bandanna and Crazy Pink

Quiksilver makes waves

Action brand is back in the country with four stores this year

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Make no mistake about it—the brand that provides the best equipment and apparel for action sports is making waves... big ones.

Since its debut in the country earlier this year, Quiksilver has consistently strengthened its reputation as the go-to place for all things surfing and skateboard—and more. That's because Quiksilver isn't only a place for action sports gear, it's a lifestyle brand, too.

"People buy Quiksilver because they want to be part of that culture or that sport and connect with it and wants to be part of. Of course, our label come once the technology we use for our products that gives them quality like no other," said Bino Saltadigo, Quiksilver's brand manager.

Quiksilver is the world's leading outdoor sports lifestyle company, which designs, produces and distributes a diversified mix of branded apparel, footwear, accessories and related products. The company's apparel and footwear brands represent a casual lifestyle for young-minded people that connect with its boardriding culture and heritage.

With four stores in the country (and a fifth one opening this month), the brand's spirit and aggressive expansion is proof of its global appeal—a name that is recognizable made famous by its products with deep heritage in surf-inspired action sports.

"It's a tough act to balance satisfying hardcore action sports enthusiasts and fashionistas that are after the lifestyle in here. But some of these would look 'hentian' out as we have dedicated product ranges for all of them," Saltadigo said.

Aside from rash guards and board shorts—that remain the bestsellers in its stores—Quiksilver also offers watches, shades, shirts, denim, and other sports accessories that make for a perfect gift this Christmas season.

For hardcore surfers, the Cypher Alpha 2° boardshorts is perfect. It features a 4-way stretch Diamond Dobby, 21-inch outseam, and a double-zip closure with new Diamond Rip. Best of all, it features the signature of 11-time world champion Kelly Slater (more on him later).

Another ideal gift is the Quiksilver Denim DENIS, distinctive the "new standard in monotone" as it is literally built for action. It features active calls for proper fits.

Saltadigo says a many bright future for the Australian brand in the country. He said: "The Philippines has a big potential when it comes to action sports. Unknown to many in the country, the Philippines has a long list of great surfing spots that are beginners or experts-all-in-one island alone."

Actually, beginning two decades ago, Quiksilver has been based on creativity, adventure, progressive and freedom. This is embodied in its boardriding culture and is symbolized by its logo, a wave-breaking over a snowcapped mountain.

Quiksilver's meaningful qualities of functionality, innovation and durability remain true to its heritage. The brand's product line has expanded from its origins as a line of boardshorts to now

Junior Joseran

Kelly Slater in Tahiti, "Courtesy of Quiksilver"

Kelly Slater fins in Gold Coast. "Courtesy of Quiksilver"

Cypher Alpha Boardshorts

Pony Up Shirt

Trip Shirt

are available in SM Baby Shortherings, Bench Fishmart 7, Mercury Mall Bacoor and Alabang Town Center opening this December). Also available in other Quiksilver outlets: P.S.E. Stores, Bridgepark, Real Real Store, The Travel Club, Urban Attitude, Sidekicks and Stones Mall Bacoor. To know more about Quiksilver, please visit www.quiksilver.com.ph/ and like Quiksilver Philippines on Facebook. Quiksilver is exclusively distributed by Primer Group of Companies.

Quiksilver Bandana

Hydr Backpack

Alpha Floats

QUIKSILVER IN NUMBERS

- 1984: BORN IN THE BOARDSHORTS. Alan Green and Jeremy first Quiksilver Boardshorts
- 1988: Quiksilver introduces Nose Rider, its "boardshort model" for wetsuits, to the surf market
- 1990: Kelly Slater wins world title year and more 4 times, one unprecedented 13 in ASP Men's Title, signs with Quiksilver. Slater, 39, is the first surfer to achieve 11 ASP World Titles, an accomplishment spanning two decades of an astounding career during which he has dominated competitive surfing as both the youngest and oldest ASP World Champion
- 2004: Debuted in stores DC Shoes
- 2011: On Valentines Day, Quiksilver formally gave the Primer Group of Companies exclusive distributorship in the Philippines. Sweet Deal!

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT QUIKSILVER

- Quiksilver is considered by its fans, a word-breaking work to make apparel innovations.
- Quiksilver's designers are Cypher incorporated into its clothing line in the early '90s to create more progressive flexibility and comfort. Diamond Dobby Technology for the first ASP Boardshorts of announced-safety-diamond pattern that reduces skin contact by 30 percent in extensive testing over nothing, utilizing the longer fabric and Quick Dry fabric that dries 2x faster than the average boardshorts material.
- Quiksilver Hydrodynamic Boardshorts is the first commonly in the industry to incorporate compression garment while it provides blood flow back to the heart, increases lymphatic drainage and aids muscle recovery.
- For years, Quiksilver through Quiksilver Foundation has been engaging into charitable activities, both locally and globally. The foundation historically supports various environmental, education, health and youth-related programs.

Subsidiary brands under Quiksilver Inc. include Quiksilver, Roxy and DC Shoes.

INNOVATING THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY

The most innovative outdoor brand, Mountain Hardwear, has arrived in the Philippines. With its 15 years of existence, the brand has consistently evolving and reinventing the most functional and grounds-breaking gear available.

"The people behind this brand has always been radical thinkers," Ruby Palma, SVP - Primer Group said. "that is why they have an pushing their limits to create new technologies that would enhance outdoor experience."

A year after its existence, the brand was able to create the Ergo Hemi which offers the user handled fit adjustments, which you need the other hand to do other jobs. In 2013, Mountain Hardwear has created the Extreme Suspension system that helps make backpacks lightweight, dynamic and provides great ventilation.

"We hoped that the arrival of Mountain Hardwear would change the Filipino outdoor community's outlook on the equipment technology."

The Primer Group of Companies, Asia's most valued giant is the exclusive distributor of Mountain Hardwear products under the PGDA Group. Available in all S.O.R. stores: Alabang, High Street, Marquee Mall, Pampanga and Ayala Center Cebu.

HIGH SIERRA

Best known for its all-American backpacks, High Sierra's awesome line of everyday backpacks are targeted mostly to the youth. Highly functional, durable, stylish, and most importantly, affordable, High Sierra is a brand that gives young people better options in terms of having the right bag whether for school, for sports/recreation, even cosplay.

Already an established brand, High Sierra has been producing high quality, multipurpose backpacks since 1978. And to better keep in step with its target market, the youth, High Sierra doesn't just focus on providing function but everyday backpacks that also gone well with the current trends. With its young target market, it is highly important that High Sierra is able to give more value for money than any other brand in the market.

Aside from coming in an assortment of vibrant designs, High Sierra's signature features which include well-designed back panels, organizer compartments, and various add-ons such as laptop sleeves, beverage side pockets, media pocket, and even a lounge cord makes it easier for students who are always on the go, never to have to worry about not having enough space for their everyday essentials.

High Sierra is definitely the backpack to have if you also want to achieve more in life while still having fun.

The Primer Group of Companies, Asia's most valued giant, is the exclusive distributor of High Sierra in the Philippines.

Travel On with Travelon

Each day, a person spends hours on the street or in a vehicle, traveling from one place to another. During those hours, the possibility of encountering an unfortunate event is high. With crimes advancing to hypnotism and such incidents using innovative products that offer protection can make a huge difference.

Travelon is a brand that caters to this necessity. Through their advanced line, it aims to provide products that not only functions well but more importantly, assures security. Each creation is designed to withstand the risky conditions of traveling. Travelon was established in 1978 and was the first US manufacturer of luggage trolleys. Formerly Travel Caddy, the new name is linked with products that are possible in technology.

The Anrishelt line features bags that are slash-proof and with lockable zippers. Chain link panels cover the most parts of the bag, which unable stealing of valuables through lacerations. The straps are also reinforced with chains making it defensive to cutting. All these lessen the risk of being vulnerable in a crowded public place. Another technology featured in line is the Radio-frequency identification or RFID.

RFID is a technology that enables identification and tracking through an electronic tag attached to objects such as credit cards, automated teller machine cards, driver's license cards and passports. Majority of the products effectively blocks RFID readers, preventing unauthorized access to personal information.

The Anrishelt products include waist packs that each has an organizer and external cellular phone pocket, cards and passport cases, document organizers and wallets that block RFID ID and passport holders that are convenient during airport checkin, bags fitting for tourists, and messenger bags that have removable LED light.

For travelers who want the best experience out of their trips, Travelon also offers their Travel Comfort Line. It comprises of split and face pouch bolsters, self-inflating neck and back pillow, go seat cushion that relieves the body from fatigue, inflatable cushion for lumbar and neck, luggage scales, and accessories that are safe for all kinds of flights.

With all these, a secured and comfortable travel is possible. Travelon is available in selected The Travel Club Stores nationwide. The Primer Group of Companies, Asia's most valued giant, is the exclusive distributor of Travelon in the Philippines.

Tretorn

Tretorn Store • Robinsons Galleria • Tretorn Boat Shoes • Tretorn Multi-Purpose Outdoor Footwear • Tretorn Sneakers • Tretorn Rain Boots • Tretorn Accessories • Tretorn Apparel • Tretorn Bags • Tretorn Socks • Tretorn Caps • Tretorn Sunglasses • Tretorn Watches • Tretorn Wallets • Tretorn Belts • Tretorn Umbrellas • Tretorn Rain Jackets • Tretorn Rain Pants • Tretorn Rain Ponchos • Tretorn Rain Hats • Tretorn Rain Gloves • Tretorn Rain Boots • Tretorn Rain Accessories • Tretorn Rain Apparel • Tretorn Rain Bags • Tretorn Rain Socks • Tretorn Rain Caps • Tretorn Rain Sunglasses • Tretorn Rain Watches • Tretorn Rain Wallets • Tretorn Rain Belts • Tretorn Rain

The perfect print solution

Brushstroke CREATIVES

Emerging new possibilities in the world of visuals

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

In an increasingly visual world we live in today, having the best print materials for marketing to communicate a product's message is of the utmost importance.

This is what Brushstroke Creatives does best—providing customized printing services for retail and interior design solutions such as stickers, signage, wall graphics, and window display, among many others.

"We started operations in 2005. Since then, we've been providing our clients the best packages for their design, lay out, printing, fabrication, up to the installation," said Mary Ivy, the company's business development manager. Brushstroke Creatives is a proud ISO-certified company operating under the Primer Group of Companies.

The company invested in eco-friendly technologies such as UV direct print and latex printing machines or strongly promote social responsibility. Today, Brushstroke Creatives is home to the new HP Latex latex printing machines. The first of its model in the country. This large format printer is capable of producing stunning image quality for indoor and outdoor applications.

"Our clients represent a wide range of businesses from supermarkets, malls, bars, restaurants, hotels, condominiums, and interior designers. Our competitive advantage is not only technology and innovation, but also building strategic partnership with small and medium enterprises to improve their businesses through effective marketing communication materials," Ivy said.

Proud of the company's consistently impressive performance, is opening its first store and showroom at the SM Mall of Asia, 2nd level South Parking in January 2012.

"To see and experience it, is to understand it. Our showroom is a masterpiece of our dynamic products and services. There are decorative cut-out and print patterns, use of different media and other accents from ceiling, wall, to floor. It will help you liven up your space," shared Mary.

"Our passion and direction leads to the continuous hunt for new technology and materials such as printing on textured canvas, 3d films, vehicle and concrete wall stickers, and so on."

"Our output keeps our eyes and brains stimulated and we are always hungry to serve our valued clients and partners."

"Holidays is fast approaching and we want to personalize your presents by having your favorite photos printed on canvas that comes with a free wooden frame."

Brushstroke Creatives is a member of Primer Group of Companies. For more info, contact us at: +632-4285035 | +632-4285330; +6392-8022239 or visit our website www.brushstrokecreatives.com

FitFlop takes on a Fashionable Shift

Whenever Autumn and Winter come to mind, a symphony of contrasting moods conjure nostalgic glimpses from fall's earthy shades and saddening maple leaves, to delightful Christmas memories of snow and homemade cakes. Wrought drowning of homage, these powerful elements of nature inspired the making of another fashion saga for FitFlop, as the world's award-winning function-forward footwear brand takes an exciting and ambitious fashionable shift from everyday practical to daring, high-end glamour.

Manila officially became the birthplace of FitFlop's bold entry to high footwear fashion. Via a glamorous Fashion Show held at The Stalls on December 1, the much celebrated "style tomorrow down" brought to fun an extraordinary dash between fantasy and Winter footwear couture in one lavish runway presentation.

Shrouded by no less than the country's renown and shakers that include famous fashion gurus and top media and business personalities, the show lived up to its promise of a magical night of pure fantasy and sophistication. From the dynamic stage lights down to the sound scoring, guests were dazzled, inspired and totally mesmerized by the fashion journey that involved models entering down scarves, flowing ribbons, donning of iconic the brilliantly crafted footwear pieces from FitFlop's Autumn and Winter 2011 Collection.

Autumn exciting designs; vibrant colors

Shoe fashionistas have set their eyes on what would be the most covetable Autumn footwear pieces from FitFlop. Vivid pops of bright, playful color schemes and prints add that contemporary edge and vigor to each stunning pair of footwear. Materials that prevailed in this category are all-purpose felt, metallic, high quality leather and shiny nylon.

Winter: luxe materials; timeless elegance

Swathed in classic monochromes of icy whites, shimmering silver and calming blues, FitFlop's Winter Collection encoder a more dramatic and sophisticated showmanship of power, purity and timeless elegance. Depicting with the luxurious materials down to the very last interesting detail that conjures such delightful past. Lush calf leather, sheepskin, suede and nubuck in various shades are the trendy materials that make up the construction features of Chunky Sharpie boot, Modish, Dash, and the Bliss boot.

The highlight for each respective finale is the ethereal casually glamour of the Autumn and Winter princesses.

Touted as the next big fashion trend for the year round, the Autumn and Winter 2011 Collection is FitFlop's compilation of fashionable, cool sneakers, multi-occasion shoe styles. With fresh, fun design, in premium materials that just feel fabulous on one's feet, all pairs will have the Microwobbleboard technology—making them the ultimate footwear that will make you FEEL GOOD.

Other event highlights

FitFlop-led marketing manager, Jessie Gilli was also present to share the exciting news on Fit-Flop, particularly the beautiful inspiration behind the 40x11 Collection and the brand's flourishing success in the Philippines.

Featured as event finale is the exquisite runaway stars of the top seven winners from FitFlop's

walk of all the models and a grand feast.

Hosted by TV host, actress, model-turn-and-fashion icon Angel Jacob, the Grand FitFlop Autumn/Winter 2011 Collection Event is presented by the Primer Group of Companies, the exclusive distributor of FitFlop in the country, for list of authorized dealers, visit its fan page at www.facebook.com/FitFlop-Philippines.

A fresher, more innovative Sanuk

'This season, this 'not a shoe' footwear is perhaps the perfect gift'

By Kenneth M. de Ramos

For a footwear brand that is famous for its sidewalk native—"not a shoe"—comfort, Sanuk is proving to be a name that has gone beyond that—into a fresher, more innovative homegrown brand.

With 12 freestanding stores plus several more kiosks to date, Sanuk has become one of the more visible footwear brands in the country. This means more opportunity for the brand to spread its advocacy of getting everyone to wear sandals that are "so comfortable it would make you smile."

Sanuk, from the word "sanook" in Thailand which means "fun," was founded in California in 2002 by surfer-snowboarder Jon Olsen and Jeremy Bacon. Olsen has been quoted as saying that he was looking for a pair of shoes that he could wear to surf, snowboard, and lounge in, and he couldn't find any. Hence, Sanuk was born.

"This has led the brand to be more experimental on the material we use to make the footwear," she said.

Olsen mentioned the use of yoga mat as footwear, which has gained popularity in recent weeks due to its feature that seem to "stretch" one's manhood mold. This is why Sanuk is coming up with more fashionable styles using yoga mats next summer.

According to her, there are at least 80 designs at any point inside a Sanuk store—which makes the store the go-to place for those looking for a gift this holiday season for their friends and loved ones.

This holiday season, Sanuk is running a promotion that would make any shoe lover jump up with joy. Until Dec. 31, every P1,000 spent one pair of Sanuk sandals entitles style patrons to one raffle entry. This gives them a chance to win any of the 10 iPhone 4S, 10 iPad 2, or eXtra Bond-Air, which will be drawn on Jan. 15, 2012. On top of that, for every P5,000 worth of purchase from Sanuk, you will get a P1,000 Sanuk cash voucher. More reason for you to smile ... Days 6 on!

In the five years that Sanuk has dominated the footwear scene here in the country, it has expanded its reach to young professionals and trendy students with its younger feel and a more sophisticated roster of styles.

"We realize it's a point that we have something new to offer every time our customers visit our store. That's one way to do it as we are passionate about footwear that we have new designs coming out regularly," she said.

Included in the new designs coming out this month is the Kingston II Black (₱2,695), which should help you "Seal out cruel fates' puffy smiles," the Jonas Dog Co Wool (₱2,495), a colorful and super cold footwear that features fresh colors and funky flavors; and the Dosey 4 Recycled (₱2,900), dotted after modern-bred material. Everyone Freedom also aims to provide a shot as can be.

The new designs serve Sanuk well as footwear lovers in the country become more experimental. The only challenge that Sanuk faces nowadays are counterfeit products that seem to damage the brand image in the long run.

"This is why we continue to educate our customers. We are always after the best customer experience as possible. The more ... done might be able to copy the aesthetics of our sandals but they will never be able to copy the comfort like that one or smile," Olsen said.

Olsen said: "Our loyal patrons would be happy to know that over your Sanuk would be featuring more colorful and fashionable footwear that would excite them to please."

For more info, visit www.sanuk.ph or its Facebook page at "Sanuk Philippines." Sanuk is exclusively distributed by Primex Group of Companies.

SANUK IN NUMBERS

- 12 Number of locations where Sanuk products are available
- 80 Number of stores Sanuk is available in the Philippines
- 2002 The year when Sanuk was founded
- 2007 The year the brand was introduced in the Philippines
- 2010 The year when Sanuk was recognized twice at the ESPN Action Sports & Music Awards as Product Innovation for Sidewalk Surfer and Yoga Mat.

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SANUK

- Sanuk is pronounced as Sa-nook.
- Luke Lundgren, a Sanuk Rep from experience, officially became Sanuk's rider in the Philippine since the start of 2011.
- Sanuk offers Barefoot Re-Technology, which feels "Footbeds" that allow your feet to bend naturally when walking. That's why it they are so comfortable to wear.
- Sanuk introduced the RAD'N PROJECT, the first out of an ongoing effort to create a product that are eco-conscious without short-changing comfort, style, or quality.
- The brand is best known for its Sidewalk Surfers, often referred to as "Slip-N-Slide", for their patented suede/canvas outsole which allows your feet to bend and flex in natural comfort.

You can score here no-cruze Sanuk Sidewalk Surfers.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **'The most civilized man in Washington'** has a soft spot for the Philippines /G2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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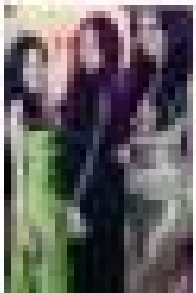
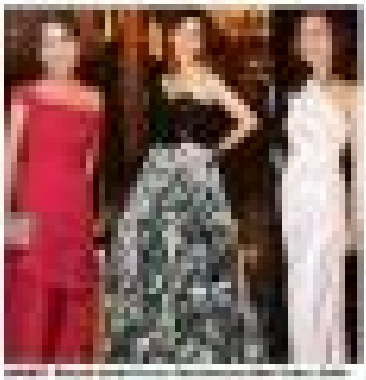
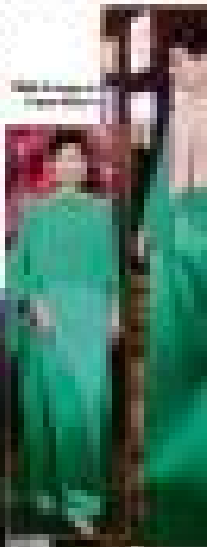
From metallics and lace to LED-







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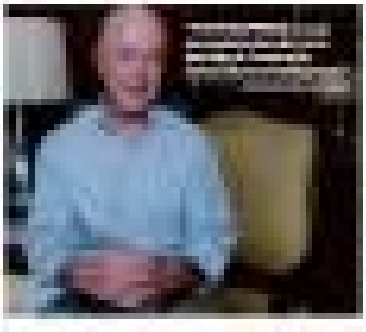
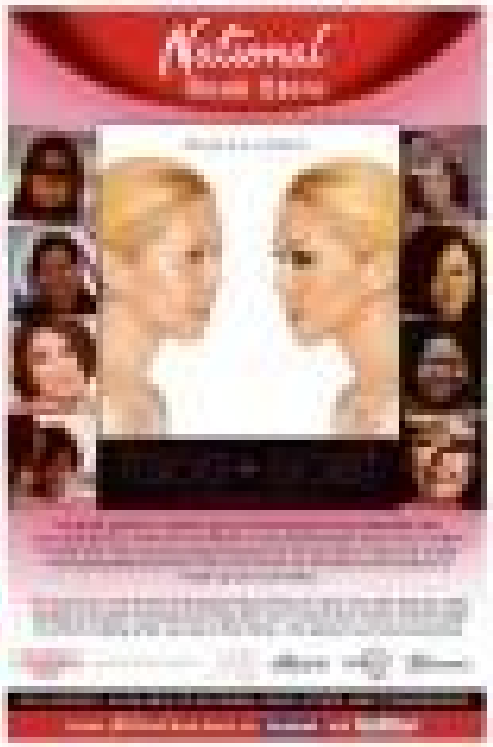


lit couture

spot for the Philippines

What they're wearing in the 2011 Philippine Tatler Ball



Make everyday Christmas for loved ones and friends with a home-delivered copy of Cebu Daily News.

tyler

Tyler: Manila's best kept fashion secret unveils Holiday 2011 collection

In fashion, it's always amazing how certain brands achieve a cult like following, owing to a product's topnotch quality, sheer exclusivity and exquisite design. In the local fashion scene, Tyler is one of the brands that quickly come to mind when thinking of such qualities, as it is widely considered one of the more premium fashion brands in the country.

Tyler burst onto the fashion scene in 2001 to address the need in the market for a slimmer European fit for men. The brand also revolutionized the local fashion landscape by offering shift pieces and business apparel for women that could be worn from day to night. Although most Tyler designs still consist of these pieces, the brand has expanded to offer dressier styles for formal occasions, casual pieces for leisure and well-designed pieces for men.

Tyler recently unveiled its highly anticipated Holiday 2011 Collection. Each piece is perfect for the season's events, allowing one to be glamorous and sophisticated whether hopping from one fabulous Christmas party to another or attending the more staid corporate events. The pieces from the Tyler Holiday 2011 Collection are also wonderful gifts to your loved ones so they can experience how amazingly fashionable it is to don Tyler.

Each Tyler piece in the collection is exquisitely crafted. Tailored and exclusive, every design is carefully considered. Only a limited number of pieces are produced for each of its wide selection of sizes. The classic designs make for timeless fashion that may be worn beyond seasonal trends.

For clothes that are effortlessly chic and sophisticated, look no further than Tyler.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ No such thing as retirement /11

Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

GE Appliances
GE microwave ovens. It's a matter of taste
With a stunning design to complement any modern kitchen and the consistent performance of both microwave and convection oven, great results have never tasted this good.
GE imagination at work

CANCIO-REYNA NUPTIALS

Touches of Halloween, Madonna and Metallica

THE RINGS

THE COUPLE shares a love for fall and photography

NANETTE Reyna-Cancio and Jose S. Cancio

By Pam Pastor

THEIR LOVE story began long before they realized it.

In 2000, New York-based Vincent Ernest Reyna, an Interior Design graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, spent time hanging out with friends at a house in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. Her friend Belen Bullough was visiting from Baguio and was staying there with his cousin. Ver didn't have the chance to meet the owner of the house; he was working in New York.

In 2003, José E. Cancio, associate director of the Periodical & Book Association of America, married his friend Hilarey Gutierrez. Ish rode Layloy and daughter Krysta back to his house in Morrisville to hang out. "My mom had passed away from ovarian cancer in 2000 and Marky had been diagnosed with cancer. After what we went through with my mom, I really made a conscious effort to get to know him and spend more time with him. He's a great guy."

Marky invited Ver to go with them, and that's when Joel and Ver finally met for the first time. It was Valentine's weekend.

Valentine's weekend

"We spent that first day just hanging out in the house and watching a marathon of 'Queers,'" Joel said.

The next day, they went around Philadelphia and hit the stores. "We started talking, and the conversation was nonstop. We were so comfortable with each other," Ver said.

And felt the same way. "I just remember

Their late friend Marky, who succumbed to cancer, introduced Ver and Joel to each other. Marky has since passed away, but the couple went on to have the fun, quirky wedding of their dreams

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Touches of Halloween, Madonna and Metallica

From page H1

how incredible comfortable I was with her and how much I enjoyed her company."

Their friendship developed quickly. Joel's office in New York was just two blocks away from Viv's school, so they ended up having lunch together and hanging out often. "We would also send text messages back and forth to each other all day long," Joel said.

They started going to events together, to friends' parties and exhibits.

Weeks into their friendship, Joel realized he had feelings for Viv. "She would stop by the office, I would look at her and say to myself, mmm, she's perfect...she's beautiful, super nice, fun, caring and smart. I liked everything about her. She was so easy to talk to, everything felt natural with her. We knew the same people, we had the same interests and we have the same sense of humor."

Soon they weren't just hanging out, they were dating. Joel said, "I knew that he really became what I am to him, like you're the only person who exists in this world. He's cool, he's smart, he's interesting, and he's super nice and macho. He's romantic. He treats me like a queen."

Joel remembers the first time he realized Viv was the one. "I had to go to Canada for a business trip the day before my cousin Brian was leaving to go back home to the Philippines. I felt bad because normally I would take the day off to spend time with him. I would never want someone to be alone on the last day of their visit.

"Viv, who was then living in New York, took it upon herself to stay with him, help him pack his stuff, and keep him company until someone brought him to the airport! before taking the train back to New York. She didn't have to do it, but she wanted to. That's Viv. And that means so much to me. That was the exact day I said to myself, 'I am going to marry this woman!'"

And on Thanksgiving weekend 2010, at his Aunt Esther's house, he proposed.

Joel said, "The most important thing in the world to me is family and friends and I wanted to do it in front of the people I care about the most."

He was surprised. "I had no clue. Everyone knew my mom knew, my family in the Philippines knew because he had asked for their blessing, too."

Marley's legacy

Sadly, Marley, who first brought them together, passed away a few days after Thanksgiving, Joel said. "I was sitting with Layla's child [pregnant] in her chair when she told me whisper it in his ear shortly before he passing. Marley made good care of the whole lot was on this earth, and treated her like a little more. It was prophetic in my eyes, that it seemed he could 'see' in peace now knowing his son is taken care of."

Layla calls Joel and Viv's union "Marley's legacy."

They first got married last fall, 14, exactly a year after they first met. It was a civil wedding, small and intimate, and they celebrated with their 10 guests at an intimate luncheon.

"We [had] wasn't able to go to our civil wedding for [family] reasons, so we planned a church wedding later in the year."

On Dec. 27, Joel and Viv were married for the second time at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful, touching wedding, one that had guests both laughing and crying. They [also] wore a beautiful gown and footwear, both designed by her best friend and maid of honor Anna Leah Hernandez.

For the reception at Celebrations in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, as a surprise for Joel, the changed time a gorgeous black-and-white gown that she and her friends found off the rack the day before the wedding. "That gown made my jaw drop," Joel said. Two hundred guests joined the celebration, with some flying in from California, Nevada, Washington, Illinois, Canada and the Philippines.

The bride and groom wanted a wedding that incorporated the things they loved the most. Joel said, "It had a sprinkle of Halloween, a dash of Tim Burton, a hint of Madonna and Metallica, and a smidge of details while being a whole lot of fun. Simple, classy and scary fun is probably the best way to describe it."

DIY wedding

They didn't hire a coordinator but planned the wedding themselves. We said it was Joel who was more obsessive about the little details.

The two were online and stored this event kata to look for decorations. They found black skeleton tree branches on the street, and they spray painted them black and Joel hung purple lights from them to give their reception room a more Halloweeny feel. They bought a pack cauldron at a flea market and asked their friend Peter Reyes to design and decorate it so they would use it as a gift box at the wedding.

The flowers at the church, the boutonnieres and bouquets were designed by the groom's aunt Shirley Gross and Anna Leah Hernandez.

The place cards were little tombstones, and the giveaways were stuffed cat bad bears designed by Anna Leah and made by Bethany's Cove, a paper company based in Hopkinton. The stuffed bears were flown in the US, filled with chocolates as a Halloween treat and fully and Jack charms, their favorite characters from "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

The cake was a gorgeous three-tiered mix of raspberry and pound cake created by HP Hornberger Bakery.

At the reception, a special cocktail was served in honor of the bride—the lethally delightful Wattini Watini, which was a mix of vodka, pineapple, and Chambord.

DJ Ramon de Vera spun tunes that got everyone dancing. Musician Raymond Lorenzo, a friend of the couple, performed a few songs and invited the groom to serenade the bride with their song "Just Like Heaven" by The Cure.

It was a beautiful wedding, one destined to be remembered by the guests for a long time. The groom calls it a dream come true, the bride thinks it's an answered prayer.

THE ABOUT-FAMILY. Her brother Ramon E. Reyes jr., mother Marina E. Reyes, Pat, Joel, father Ramon C. Reyes Sr. and sister Patricia E. Reyes. Not in the photo is brother Karlo Librado E. Reyes.

THE GROOM'S FAMILY. Brother Raymond Lorenz, sister Cristina Concio, the couple and dad Eduardo "Ted" Garcia Concio Jr.

HOLY Trinity Church in Morrisville, Pennsylvania

FIRST dance

THE GROOM'S mom Shirley Gross.

THE BRIDE with her maid of honor Anna Leah Hernandez.

THE GROOM gives his father-in-law a hug.

CLOCKWISE from top left: little tombstones, gift stuffed bears designed by Peter Reyes; the rings with Jack and Sally; table sets; a gift from the groom's sister Tina Concio; wedding cake with "The Nightmare Before Christmas"-topper

NEW TYPOS Dr. Marvin Martinez Jr. and Dr. Ivy Rose Nisce

MARTINEZ-NISCE NUPTIALS

Doctors in love

BOTH STILL YOUNG and in love, Ivy Rose Nisce, a senior orthodontology at the University of Santo Tomas hospital, married hospitals boyfriend Marvin Martinez Jr., an ophthalmologist (glaucoma, eye and ear, lids—marry—working in New York, USA). Binds Ivy finished his internal medicine residency at Makati Medical Center, while Marvin is a UST graduate. At the church, the bride glided beautifully down the aisle wearing a divine Eddie Bauer-Spanish lace and Mikado silk bridal dress. The wedding ceremony—especially the heavenly songs of 92.3—at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, really made some guests teary-eyed. Cocktails and dinner followed at the ballroom of Manila Peninsula, including all kinds of mouthwatering cheeses flown in from the Baker by the bride's close aunts. Lovely flowers by top florist Tony Rodriguez covered some 250 guests from parishes Diliman from the world and business (family owned/banks) sectors.

BRIDE Ivy with fashion dad Ivan and mom Dr. Rose Nisce, who wears a deep purple Eddie Bauer dress

FOUR men and a bride: Ivy Rose with her dad and three brothers

MY and Marvin Martinez with members of their entourage at Santuario de San Antonio Parish after the wedding; at left, Ivy Rose Nisce Martinez walks down the aisle to an Eddie Bauer creation.

FLANKED by their parents, William and Katherine Tan and Elizabeth and Jaime Lao

GJ and Van have their dream wedding at home in the Philippines before settling in San Francisco

MR AND MRS Gerardo Jose and Vanessa Clemente Lao

LAO-TAN NUPTIALS

'The perfect blend'

AFTER SEVERAL years of dating in Boston, Massachusetts, where they both studied, worked and met, Gerardo José Lao, eldest child of Jaime Lao and Elizabeth Cardona, and Vanessa Clemente Tan, only daughter of William Tan and Katherine Clemente, exchanged wedding vows on Oct. 22 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila.

Thus, GJ and Van, as the newlyweds are called by family and friends, realized their dream of having their wedding in the Philippines before settling down in San Francisco, California.

WITH FLOWER girls Marissa Barua-Burgos, Maxine Varela (back row) and Alessandra Valea, coin bearer Jacques Caden Lim and ring bearer Jose Rafelle Sarmiento

THE COUPLE dance the fox-trot.

WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors Ruby Valea, Vivian Dy, Catherine Tio, Margarita Gamboa, Ana Sze, Michael Ongsiú, Em. Alfredo Maruzzo Jr., Dr. Gil Sagmit, Jenny Ang, Lope Conning (back row) Mathson Tio, Aida Ongchi, Charina Gemmal, Peter Lim, Ban Tio, Ramon Gemmal, Robert Lim and Eduard Tio

The bride was radiant in her Francesca Barcelona gown embellished by Elizabeth Hallke by with a four-meter train of imported French lace.

A touching rendition of "The Prayer" by Bo Cervinka and Patricia Fabiano, accompanied by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, provided the background for Van's march down the aisle with her parents, until moved many of those present to tears.

Sen and Catherine Tio, Romeo and Divina Gemmal, Michael and Aida Ongchi, Jimmy Ang and Vivian Dy Edward and Marlene Tio, Robert and Helen Lim, Em. Alfredo Maruzzo Jr. and Ana Sze, Dr. Gil Sagmit and Margarita Gamboa, and Lope Conning and Ruby Velez stood as principal sponsors.

The reception was held at One Esplanade on Bay Boulevard. Cocktails were served by Club Mouk Asian at hors d'oeuvres tables, with the sunset as backdrop.

The dining hall was decorated in French motif by Tito Villanueva. The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra played beautiful music.

Dinner was catered by Edwin Tan of TIDE and master chef Roy Lim of Cantigny Restaurant in Beijing. Wine and liquor flowed endlessly.

DJ Lockstress was the program host. After he introduced GJ and Van as a newlywed couple, they took to the dance floor and danced the fastest to the tune of "I Had to be You."

Comedy sang several love songs. Still glowing by the fit until on-site video by Jason Magbanua were shown on giant screens. The Downbeat Band and DJ Jaime LaO provided lively dance music until the wee hours of the morning.

Giveaway bags of coffee and sugar read "The Perfect Blend... GJ and Van."

MANALO-SOLIS

Christopher Ed Avanzado II Manalo and Michaela G. Solis will tie the knot on Dec. 10 in Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City. Msgr. Fred Mac-Laughraun will officiate. Reception will be at Batangas Country Club, Batangas City. Photo coverage is by Blueprint Photo. Michaela Shiebler made the bridal gown.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a photo of the bridal gown, if any, to the inquirer, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in the order in the emails.

AMADO III-POE

Angelica Poe will wed Ramon Melchor Amado III on Dec. 17 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. A grand reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom, Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The silver and turquoise, modern romance theme event will be coordinated by events specialist Alice Ivanna of Events Plus. Edgar Allan de Aguad the wedding gown.

OCHANGCO-AMES

Mary Ann Ames, daughter of Adrianne and Elizabeth Ames, will marry Francis Debangco, son of Florentino and Edna Debangco, on Dec. 11, 4 p.m., at Rincon Pavilion, 45 Rincon Road, Tiaong, Valenzuela City. Reception immediately follows. Principal sponsors are Edmundo de Avila, Ellen Cayetano, Edgardo De Mesa, Florante Elum, Bernardo Abarientos, Leonardo de Leon, Robot Nacion, Reynaldo Pascual, Richard Bayard and Napoleon Valenzuela Sage, Virginia Pascual, Leonora Francisco, Martina del Rosario, Catalina Prieto, Maria Geronimo, Leticia Elmen, Susan Santiago, Agapita Patricio, Lydia Pangyarihan and Stellita B.

PEDRAL-DE LOS REYES

Ericson Pedral, son of Exquisito and Cecilia Pedral (both deceased) will exchange vows with Maryluf de los Reyes, daughter of Flavio and Felisa Abad de los Reyes, on Dec. 17, 10 a.m., at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, University of the Philippines, College Laguna. Reception will follow at Balayang Sanayanak, National Arts Center of the Philippines, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna.

DALUSONG-GARCIA

Ma. Kathleen Mae Padua Garcia, daughter of Rene George Dimirdo Garcia and Florence Visonte Bedaño Padua, will wed Cardomagno Aguinaldo Dalusong, son of Lawyer Romeo de Dios Dalusong and Evelyn Segundo Aguinaldo, on Dec. 7 at St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Newport Boulevard, Pillarisan, Pasay City.

CD DEBUT

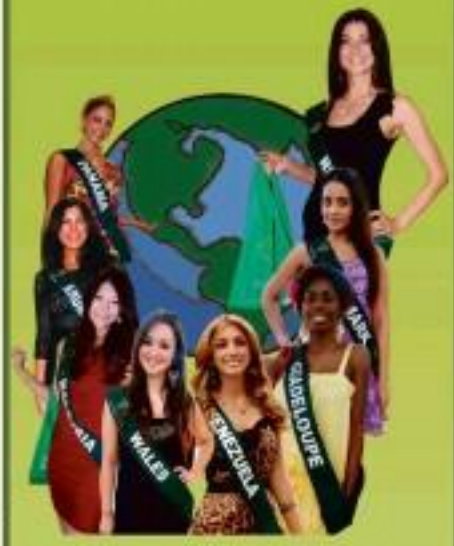
Wendi Lucero Lagarda Co celebrated her 18th birthday last Nov. 23 at Shoda Manis Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan. With the intimate soiree her parents William Ong Leonel Lucero Lagarda Co, who also celebrated his 50th birthday

Ms. Hong Kong

Ms. Korea

Ms. Canada

Greenbag lite goes GLOBAL



On November 29, 2011, the lovely delegates of Ms. Earth 2011 graced the launch of the SM Food Group's Greenbag Lite. As part of the campaign to promote the use of reusable shopping bags, they visited two SM stores, SM Hypermarket Mall of Asia and SM Supermarket Megamall A & B. While sporting the new SM Greenbag Lite, each delegate wrote their "green commitment" on the Greenbag Pledge Wall and met several of the shoppers, even posing for pictures with many of them.

Aiming to reduce the amount of plastic waste that finds its way into Philippine landfills and oceans, SM created the SM pioneered in 2007. This sturdy, big-capacity, flat-bottomed bag was the first reusable bag to be launched in Philippine retail.

The SM Greenbag Lite is the second version of the SM Greenbag. It's made of the same durable, washable, and rice woven fabric as the first, but is slimmer, easier to store in your purse or bag, and more affordable than ever.

Environmental awareness has always been one of the SM Food Group's values. After spearheading ecological responsibility when it promoted the use of reusable bags in its stores, SM took it a step further in 2009, implementing the My Own Bag program which is being enforced every Wednesday. On this day, select SM Food Group stores don't issue customers plastic bags with their purchases, encouraging shoppers to bring their own.

Both versions of the SM Greenbag can be bought at all SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket, and Savemore stores at 35 pesos and 10 pesos each.

Ms. Scotland

Ms. Chinese Taipei

Ms. U.S.A.

Greenbag lite
is now available for only P10

Exclusively at:
SM HYPERMARKET SM SUPERMARKET savemore

Editor Thelma Simon San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Roces

No such thing as retirement

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

FORMER BANKER Roman Ambra Jr. chuckled in his dark suit over a checkered shirt and khakis. If he could wear a T-shirt, it would read: "Warning: Retiree knows it all and has plenty of time to tell it."

The perks of a big boss such as having an executive assistant are moot. The tight-week schedule has eased up to every leisure time. After fourteen years at Philippine Bank of Communications, his last duty he was elected president of Manila Polo Club in August and also named chairman of the board.

Ambra underscores that his role in MPC president is not a job. "It's just something that I like to do," he maintains. Still, the responsibilities are enough to keep him busy.

In his 42-year banking and finance career, Ambra has held prestigious positions. "Every time I was 20, I'm then CEO, president or head of country of several corporate financial websites." He's ex-Chief executive officer of PNCB Finance, the largest finance company owned by Citibank and concurrently held the portfolio of vice president of Citi corp (now retired).

Ambra also led Bank of Riyal, Asia Europe Americas (consortium bank), Goldpoint and PBCom and several prestigious stockholders, such as Philippine Education Institute of the Philippines, Investment Bonus Association of the Philippines and Capital Market Development Council.

Cavalier attitude

This is the second time he has enjoyed retirement. The first was in 1997, when he left Indigos at age 52. "Investment banking is for younger guys. I didn't want to go back to commercial banking or go abroad," he recalls. "I had a cavalier attitude. Unlike

BUSINESS

What keeps me up at night

Maybe one of the children is still out partying? No, they are never too old to wait up for or worry about! And so you wait

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

I PUT the lights out and snuggle under the comforters. Ah, it's lovely to finally put to rest all the cares and worries of the day. I think to myself, ok to sleep! Yes chance to dream!

On most nights it happens. But on others, it just isn't that easy. For some reason, or none at all, my mind does not shut out with the lights.

For some there are specific triggers for insomnia. With me it's random. Suddenly I remember the recipe I promised to e-mail a friend/child. Where is that book I bought at Target? Did I turn off the desktop downstairs? What am I doing here, alone? A hen's smiles at me in the dark. Or maybe I'll have forgotten that it looks horrible.

I play a fast game of Bumblitz on the laptop, after. There's a seven-letter word. WICKIUM. It gives me 66 points. I win!

They say people of age need less sleep than others. They also say the more desirable time of day for us average guys is at "five minutes more."

It's deep, that wonderful friend we hope to meet at the end of each day, pervading it with its sound and peaceful and full of sweet dreams. But on some nights sleep is painfully elusive.

What keeps us up, really?

There are many reasons for sleepless nights. The experts have filled an internet version of their take on insomnia. Some have referred to it as a "slippery fish" which is hard to handle.

Psychologists insist that stress is one of the top offenders. Reasons why stress over things they cannot change are likely to hit us. Pressures on the workplace, from family or career issues create an increase of adrenaline in the body. This pumps the heart, activates the brain and robs you of sleep.

Surfing TV channels to bed keeps you up. Did you know that? So does the Internet, checking on Facebook for the latest "post" and, yes, your cell phone.

Have you caught yourself, lying in the dark, waiting for that Blackberry on your nightstand to give you a blinking red light or hear the latch of the front door? Maybe one of the children is still out partying? No, they are never too old to wait up for or worry about! And so you wait. Of course, you can't sleep.

To say that a cup of coffee before bed time is not advisable is a no-brainer. But did you know that cigarettes have the same effect? Both contain stimulants. So do sodas and tea.

Medical illness and physical injuries are listed as contributors to loss of sleep. Doctors are prepared to diagnose. I have seen and prescribe medication, to quickly with more drawbacks and ebbs than a website Dr. Conrad Murray, who attended to the King of Pop.

For the inquisitive who cannot and must not forsake sleep, here's a short list of culprits.

Worry. What does it mean to worry? It means to run to ruminate. We have said that. And then some are correct or persistent; whether we wanted about it or not.

Don't take your job to bed

Living with your work. Are you trying to sleep while mentally sitting at the desk poring over papers? Don't take your job to bed.

Sedentary. That ugly green-eyed monster creeps under the covers with you. And it gnaws at your heart and soul. Your mind conjures images you can't endure. And you lie there, motionless, heartbroken and restless. Try counting instead. Try believing that you have nothing more to desire than what is already yours.

Envy. The final line gives it away, too. Do not play his game. Be content with what you have. Stop looking on the other side of the fence.

A guilty conscience. It stuck like spurs on a boisterous ride which is another reason to love sleep and ask myself, how can you sleep at night? But that assumes, doesn't it, that I have composure, self-righteous and certainly have a conscience. Please!

What have we done, or not done, that makes us heartsick and restless at the end of each day?

In the words of Shakespeare Sanguine "To sin? The things you do, dear, it's the things you leave undone that give you that lot of heartache at the setting of the sun. That tender word forgotten, the letter you did not write. the flowers you might have sent, dear, are your haunting ghosts tonight." Dachi!

Hatred. It is a cause of loathing that consumes the heart and soul. The person who hates is killing himself. He is like victims of the early petroleum. Hatred keeps him awake tossing in shadows, afraid to close his eyes.

Fear of death. Some people break into a cold sweat thinking, "Suppose I don't wake up? What then?" As if stopping awake could keep the Grim Reaper at bay.

My friend has a wonderful retort to that. "If you don't wake up, then you will have nothing to worry about." How true.

So what can we do to have a restful night?

A glass of warm milk may help, or warm chamomile and honey. Don't overeat before bedtime. Avoid somewhere that cluttered bedroom can affect your sleep pattern. So tidy up!

Alcohol is a pretty reliable sedative. But for some it is stimulant. Books refer you of the "sleep-deep stage," which is the part of the sleep cycle that refreshes you. A warm bath helps. So does an after dinner walk. Herbal tea and soft music are also suggested.

Needless to say a productive, active day can spell the difference between a good and a bad night.

Inside a lot. Laugh! Cry if you must, but shoot a little. Make out or do something to make life feel less for someone other than yourself.

And when all is said and done: I think this could be the best bedtime tip yet.

Every evening, before you go to bed, turn your worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

Santos III exhibit at Sitio Remedios

"READY for Hanging" (above) and "Highlight"

THE ATEO Remedios Art Projects and The Silingan Foundation for the Arts, Culture and Ecology present Jose Santos III's solo exhibit, "Unsok Pusk." Under classic, framework viewers shift like painting from an assumed angle. Instead of the canvas at all, likes of flowers, and fruit...he goes for a real the surface of objects and sometimes their scars.

He prefers the theme of "conceal and reveal," which is why he often adopts the device of wrapping objects to raise questions about their content. He brings together contextual objects from the household space to create still life paraphernalia that point to the underlying necessities of his art. Further more, he suggests however, a reality object) can tell life stories, stories are used to...stories of a life lived.

The exhibit will run at The Greatroom Bistro de Juan Luna Hall (ending Dec. 10). As it...se Santos Remedios, the renowned villa...hope to spread awake and full of...Diana Horta.

Sitio Remedios Art Projects aims to establish and promote art to the north by gathering the interest of the local people to visit and stay.

For inquiries, e-mail sitio_remedios@yahoo.com or visit www.sitioremedios.com.

From page 1

my father (Roman Sr., who a banker) who worked for the same company for decades and got a gold watch, my generation has been on the before they're 55."

Asked about his learning experience, Azanza replies, "Keep your mind active. Reading and hobbies are not enough. Take up challenges, do problem-solving. If it's possible, get involved in execution or senior levels. Someone described me as an eagle. It doesn't necessarily say intervisor education. He said, 'You can swoop up and get an overall picture. If you have to come down, there is a lot of experience in detail. I don't make a number of micro-managing, saying to tell you what to do and how to do it. That's not leadership."

In the seven years of his "early retirement," Azanza held a few directorships and consultancy. For Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., he represented one of its heads. The Asian Development Bank and the US agency for international Development tapped him as a consultant because of his experience in the capital markets.

In 2004, BANCO became president and chief executive of PBCom, his very first career had come full circle working with a medium-size traditional bank. When Roberto Ongpin bought out the bank, he wanted his directors on board. Meanwhile, weary of a 9-to-5 routine, Azanza retired.

Did he prepare for this retirement? "Yes really. At PBCom there was the pension and retirement fund, the indirect preparation. I never cut up a situation where the entire earnings come from investments like stocks or bonds," he says.

"After I found I had been through the first time, it would be nice to get back on the line. But I'm 66. Other directorships are fun, the per diems are good, but I don't honestly think I'll survive days when I would have a CEO title or an office and a secretary. I want to keep my mind active. That's the most important thing and I don't mean staying at home in front of my little computer or watching TV all day. Pahirap iyon!" says Azanza.

He thinks young, but admits feeling his age in some places. "I was a good athlete...swimming and I basketball. I never got an eyesight. I don't know what happened. It's like whole somebody hit a switch. I don't want to be swimming my muscle mass. I used to be a very good squash player. I'm not 36 anymore. There are guys here at the Polo Club who are completely retired and they spend most of their day here. They can have access to the newspapers, magazines, internet. They discuss and hold meetings. Any place but home."

Life at Polo Club

Since his retirement, he has gotten two job offers. "I'm not retired. I'm still working. I'm just not working in a corporate environment. I'm working in the business of my own time. I'm not working in the business of somebody else's time," he says.

"I WANT to keep my mind active. That's the most important thing."

Roman Azanza Jr. may have shed the banker's dark suit for the checkered shirt and khakis of the Manila Polo Club. But he remains a manager at heart, and that's the only way to grow old young

Azanza, although they were good ones. One was obviously for my son (Roman III). I'm flattered, but, but, you got the wrong guy. The position and the experience and some level of guts who will form a business opportunity group and I took his opportunities here and elsewhere."

When Azanza assumed his position at First MBC, he went through phases in his world where he was in banking. He met the managers and reviewed the balance, many of which he authored when he was MBC president in 2001.

As the head of the facilities oversight committee, he oversees the renovation while maintaining the historic architecture of Ayala Avenue Public Assembly. The renovated areas in MPC, such as the annex, are referred to as "after the fire," while the older areas, such as the lobby and main lounge, are called "Ante Bellum."

He says the swimming pool has been renovated while the entire Green will be fully operational in January. There were other structural changes which had to be done, such as changing the deep water well to the Manila Water Company.

"For banks or CEO many times and most of the staff comes initiated to me," he says. "It's hard to explain—like oops, there's something wrong with this system. Oops, there are lots of control lacking here. Hush, those guys don't like those guys or those guys don't like management or there's something boisterously wrong with a dysfunctional manager. Some of the staff you can't go to school for. It's like, listen there, done that.

"Like most of us CEOs, we wouldn't be there if we didn't know how to command. If you can't exercise leadership, you may what you're good doing at your life. Most of all, you have to keep the mind active in responding to challenges, no matter how small.

"I'm not going to worry about what I'll do after two years. That's a long time from now. I'd like to think God has been good to me. Something will come up."

Practice helplessness

By Edna Montoya
Contributor

> It's great advice for those of us still in 'resistance mode': Unlearn stubborn independence

LAST WEEK I accompanied my mother for a laboratory test. As we sat waiting for her turn, we struck up a friendly session with the woman sitting from our desk to another, in an apparent attempt to complete the papers required prior to the test. In obvious frustration, she said aloud in no one in particular in the waiting room: "Sige na ako, kung ano man gusto ka nang mawalay."

What must have prompted this remark, besides frustration, was the fact that she had to undergo this medical check-up alone. For a frail, stooped lady in her 70s, this lack of a companion was surprising. No sentimental scene, we must. No family members, no friend.

Was she too tightfisted to have a professional caregiver? Who else managed from family members who, for a small fee, might have volunteered to accompany her during this medical visit? Had she no barangay neighbor or friend she could have called upon to do her this kindness?

Or was she perhaps just a proud woman in stubborn denial of her need of a helpful companion in such a time?

Leaving the cubicle where the medical technician had drawn blood specimens from her arm, the elderly lady nearly fell into a swoon. "Nahihilo ako," she remarked, again in no one in particular. A kind woman quickly stood up and offered her arm. Reluctantly but gratefully, the elderly lady took the proffered arm. Minutes later I saw the two women slowly walking to the hospital's driveway, where the elderly lady's car and driver were waiting as we passed her safely home.

Was it Blanche DuBois who declared that we are often dependent on the kindness of strangers?

Oh Yes, I have been throwing this truth into myself.

I was not always this way. My mother tells me that even as a child, I was headstrong, pushing away the protective arms of caregivers, rushing headlong into whatever I was interested in doing. "I can do it by myself!" I would say, over and over again. And I did, over and over again, through the years.

Unlike other baby-talas saved, all help drooling up for school, I insisted on pairing on my and doing by myself, no matter that my socks sometimes mismatched and ribbons elusively clipped on my hair. Unlike my two brothers who needed help with their homework, I took pride in doing mine all by myself (okay, except occasionally in math).

While my colegiala friends needed to be chauffeured to the place and that, I rode buses and jeepneys to take me where ever I wanted to go, wherever I wanted to go.

This acquired habit of independence has served me exceedingly well, from childhood to adulthood, in my professional career and in my family life. It freed me from many of the restrictions that bound my contemporaries, that kept many of them miserably chained to a desk or pitifully bound to a bedsheet, like the proverbial clinging vine. During the decade just past, my parents had been, "Fifty and free!"

But for how much longer can I maintain this independence? My aging body warns me for no long. My eyes have had to have their cataracts removed and they have learned. My feet occasionally stumble over themselves, requiring me to grasp handrails. My lungs must re-learn whenever I walk up stairs more quickly than I should.

Less carefree

Not that any of these difficulties, taken in themselves, are proving a handicap. But taken cumulatively, these changes in my physical essence are steadily forcing me to adopt a less carefree lifestyle.

Take travel, for instance. These last few decades, I have been a hardy traveler, more often than not traveling on my own. But I foresee the time when I will no longer be able to bear my luggage onto an airliner unaided, to forgot be able to run after departing planes, perhaps not even to take a stroll to the dock of a cruise ship.

What then? Then I will have to depend on the kindness of others, even of strangers.

Stephen Levine, whose life work it has been to aid the terminally ill and dying, sees the scenario in these stark terms: "Many people do not feel themselves then last resort, or flash their last hurrah." For continues, "The body's strength dwindles as it slowly approaches death. If we are fortunate, we are aided by caregivers [four] being healed about assistance our sense of helplessness and a willingness to surrender to such feelings. There is something in us that finds it easier to serve than to be served."

Has Levine any advice for those of us still in the "resistance mode?" He, and in a very direct advice. "Practice helplessness." He suggests, among others. Close two exercises. "[1] Lower your hands by your sides and let yourself be fed. (2) Let yourself be dressed by another. Do not lift your hands. 'Watch your frustration grow,' he advises. If nothing else, these exercises will help us become more compassionate toward the elderly and the infirm.

So this then is what I must not delay doing: to acknowledge my independence and to reveal, learn a gracious helplessness.

My recipe for graceful aging

By Eva S.E. Arenas-Angat, MD
Contributor

> Pope Leo 23rd thinks how we age is always a choice: Some people age like fine wine, others turn to vinegar

THIS IS for those among us who scream at the first signs of a wrinkle or budding white hair and for those who wish to remain forever 40. Or 50.

The trouble is, old age is not interesting and it sure gets worse. It is a foreign country with an unknown language to the young and even to the middle-aged.

So when do you know you are getting older?

Do you are old when:

- Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- You look forward to a dull and quiet evening.
- Your favorite part of the newspaper is 20 years ago today.
- You turn the lights off for economic reasons rather than romantic ones.
- You are in the rocking chair and can't get it going.
- Your friends huddle but your belt won't.
- The little gray old lady you help cross the street is your wife.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they say thirty.
- You have too much room in the house, and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. Get the drift?

When are we old? Pertaps President Jimmy Carter, in his book "The Virtues of Aging," writes: We are old when we think we are, when we embrace an attitude of dependency and isolation.

There are two models of aging: healthy and unhealthy, graceful and not so graceful.

My late mentor Dr. Emmanuel T. Encinadas, Jr. was 81 when he was chairman-emeritus of the Geriatric Center at St. Luke's Medical Center. In one of our annual get-away conventions, I listened in by for one of his keen lectures on the pathways to aging and longevity.

After his talk, I congratulated him. At 65, I told him, I still was learning a lot from him. And he answered, Wait till you hear my lecture when I'm 100."

Pope Leo 23rd thinks how we age is always a choice: Some people age like fine wine, others turn to vinegar.

Grumpy old women

People who turn to vinegar are perhaps those who gave rise to the appellation "grumpy old men, cranky old women," people who have not learned to live and let live or let go, forgive and forget, those who brawn, are nitpickers, and are always angry.

Lucille Ball said she never to being young is in our temple, live honestly and be about your age.

The world is aging at a pace beyond what has been predicted. It is important to know that as we like to add more life to the years that have already been added to life, preventive gerontology is important. Let's see what sensory losses and aging changes can do.

Vision: Spectacled eyesight improves as physical eyesight declines.

Hearing: You can no longer hear your spouse snore (Yay!).

Weight: Obesity is no longer just an orthopedic problem but a disease that promotes diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol disorders. In fact, some cancers can be traced back to obesity as well.

Lung cancer: makes one forever young, as you never grow old because you die young.

There was the case of a smoker who was diagnosed with lung cancer. When he asked his doctor how much time he had left, the doctor replied, "Uh, 8, 8, 7..."

A satisfying sex life in aging is one of the indicators of a good quality of life among older persons. Dysfunctions and discontinuation are key to a satisfying sexual relationship in aging. It is important, however, to recognize that there are certain limitations. And accompany is, of course, encouraged.

The problem: obsessions lies in the female partner who has a lot of issues that need to be confronted and resolved. There are medical solutions to these problems. Men who have been refused by their wives complain of being called "dirty old men" if they turn their attention elsewhere. There is no truth to the rumor that screwing with younger women can make you young.

The surest cure for total of elders women with young concern. As seen in the Old Testament, King David was given a female servant, Abishag, to minister to his needs and maintain vital "heat." But this formula does not seem to work, as the next chapter in the Old Testament already talked about King David's death.

Then there's the issue of erectile dysfunction among males. I recall a story of an elderly couple who were listening to an evangelist over the radio. At the end of his sermon, the preacher admonished all those who were listening that if they need healing, all they needed to do was to raise their right hand in prayer while the left hand rests on the body part that needs healing. Upon hearing this, the husband promptly raised his right hand, and his left hand was touching his groin. On seeing this, the wife said, "Honey, the preacher said he is going to heal the sick, not resurrect the dead."

But this of course is a thing of the past. Currently, there are three anti-erectile dysfunction drugs in the market that have shown up to 80-percent efficacy (or no wonder you, however, not to be enthusiastic, as 10 percent of patients with ED are senior citizens).

The second part of this piece is a recipe for graceful aging—aside, of course, from eating less and lots of sunkissed and being nice to your daughter-in-law. I mention this because in my clinical practice, most elder women or men are brought into the clinic or office, and making follow-ups and accompanying them for procedures have

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 4)

Dance to the new adventure of Happy Feet 2 with Jollibee's Ice Funcapes

Mumble and his gang of tap-dancing penguins are back and Jollibee is letting kids join in the Antarctic fun with the happy meal. Until Funcapes starts, kids can choose from Jumpin' Diving Penguin, Ballz Penguin Pool, Brent's Super Climber, and Mumble's Treasure Island.

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Be the first of your friends to complete the set! Happy Feet 2 Ice Funcapes collectibles are available with every order of the following Jollibee Kids Meals: Hamburger Steak, Jollibee Spaghetti Meal, 4-Piece Chicken Nuggets Crunchers Meal, and 1-piece Chicken

I will live mindfully, not defensively

Chit Rivera

NOT QUITE THERE

ONE RECENT evening I caught on the street a scene that ignited a personal memory. There, rewarded by a street cinema, was a woman losing her bag to two snatchers operating in tandem by motorbike. It all came, I'm told, not only within the minute, but also within the times—Orientals is fussy fusses—and my new village, for the paradise that it is, needs at the same time to offer very privileges.

It's a compact, well-run, fenced-complete kid-with-kidrid neighborhood where people walk all the time, not only because everywhere is too near to ride, but also because, with two lush parks and a breeze blowing across them, walking is a pleasure, and you'd think, safe, too, even at night, with the bright street lamps and the roving motorcycle cops and cold-stainless guards. Too much, indeed, to be lulled into a false sense of security, as I, myself was, paying dearly for it.

It was just past nine. The night was quiet, close instead for a Monday. After a quick dinner out, my husband and I elected to walk home to catch the news. We'd have dined at home-And not taken our chances running the streets, for the day before our had lost our mind, and for that the heavy existential responsibility for my tragedy.

When the scene ran over our glass, we had just about had it with evening out. Cooking was not fun-saving stuff—in fact, after the it got tough—but she was a perfect cleaning-ma. Also. She sang lustily and constantly and stitches badly through her chores. Our parting was amicable and unusual, by Indochinese-a-way. She had to let me cutting in two-three; we hate other singing. Anyway, word would soon reach us that she discovered the fulfillment of Ukiyo-to.

And so the stage was set for my tragedy. We were entering the street, eyes left, watching for bottle that would only come that way on the one-way street. In mid-crossing, a motorcycle, going counter-traffic, crept up on our blind side and exploded into action in the back seat caused the commotion. Invisible Pesky. I screamed while my husband gave chase, but the snatchers had teamed on the first corner, going separate traffic again on another one-way street, out went wheels, and were quickly gone.

We ended up spending our entire time at the police station. As I related my ordeal for the village Bichos, policemen rummaged me with stones the likes of which I would confess to before when I told my story to others. Some victims are run down. Three corrupted with china bag straps are dragged along. Once cornered, three attackers are known to shoot it out with the cops.

Singularly lucky

I was beginning to feel singularly lucky until our officer assigned this case to count every time I raised fingers. When I asked if anyone had been caught, the officer pointed to mug shots tacked to the wall, ringing our case face with a bag, and I always seem it to signify he was now behind bars.

I was looking at the face in family, cut-back-about what has particular species looks like, when the policeman chuckled. "Have long, Ma'am, if no person any more injure."

Upon his arrest, the policeman went on to tell me, victims involved in the start lost to see if he might be their snatch; is were caught in a frenzied desire for quick satisfaction and gave him severe face.

My two-inches-time still pumping, I spent the rest of the night calling the emergency lines, which banks keep open 24 hours, to have our cards blocked. (Or next day I attended to my errands-visitors card and movie passes. Within a week, I got my new cards and a new cell phone with a new IMEI card. I have begun to count using my lost date first, but the priceless pictures and videos of my youngest grandchildren—less than a year, but first-come, first-first birthday party—are forever lost.

More than angry, I felt both used by a bloc of change in me. I was long jaming to live defensively.

I pressured myself walking around with little cash in a money bag tied around my waist, my cell phone, and a whistle hanging from a string around my neck and I now resist inside my blouse, adding bulk to my anatomy. I nearly couldn't accompany my husband walking beside me carrying my handbag.

The sound and sight of motorcycles still unnerve me. Thoughts of designing a snatcher-proof bag have come to mind, one whose handles separate automatically once snatching pressure is applied

The sound and sight of motorcycles still unnerve me. Thoughts of designing a snatcher-proof bag have come to mind, one whose handles separate automatically once snatching pressure is applied

But enough evil meters. I choose instead to live more mindful of my surroundings and more deeply appreciative of everything and everyone I love or found loving' life. Trust should keep me on track.

In fact, things at home are looking better. I have found a mind-what does things well, who is not choosy with chores, and who doesn't have my mother-in-law.

Paradise may have been declassified, but variety not lost.

My recipe for graceful aging

From page 6

love their daughters as Ann.

If you can't afford Botox

Anyway, for graceful aging:

1. Acceptance vs resistance. If Joe Jits not fair young, then we grow old and the old. There's no other way. But to those who cannot afford Botox or things, remember what Victor Hugo has to say: When grace is joined by wrinkles, it is adorable.

2. Be prepared for an empty nest.

3. Know where to hunt by planning your retirement.

I have seen people who were powerful and in control, but upon retirement realized their "significance." There are people who are depressed and have demanded self-worth. But count to think of it, now that you are retired, you will never get fired from work. Happy?

Or, retirement, this is when Winston Churchill has to say: "I feel like an airplane in the end of a long flight...in the dusk, in search of a safe landing."

4. Do not be afraid to assume new roles.

With the diapers of DPWs and the emergence of the so-called "invisible" families—grandparents assume dual roles as parents and grandparents, or caregivers. Often unpaid.

Do interesting things. The dentist you cannot touch old dogs new tricks applies only to dogs and not to people. To most people, learning should stop only in the grave.

People who have dared to do something new even in late life include people like:

Col. Sanders—69, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken

George Burns—72 when he learned to "skydive," and retired for 100 to stardom.

Ronald Reagan—72 when re-elected to his second term.

Nelson Mandela—71 when he became the first black president of South Africa.

Grandma Moses—76, when arthritis made it impossible to needlework, so she started to paint.

Winston Churchill—77 when he became Prime Minister of the UK.

Growing old is about gaining off lots of common sense and letting them antidotes for wisdom.

Growing old is about being still and silent, and having it mistaken for deep contemplation.

Growing old is understanding that the best things in life come to us both rich and not so between.

Growing old is about coming to look like Emilio Estevez or Charlie Sheen and feeling more like their father.

Growing old is about whole hair becoming a surplus and not just an annoying speck to be covered by cheap hair dyes. (The painter cares really work! Wink wink!)

Growing old is about not knowing the difference between worry lines and wrinkles, and not caring at all.

Growing old is about taking an oldsters, and letting others find the rush for themselves.

Growing old is where "company" means friends and not a "place of work" or a "place to make money."

Growing old is about crying when people are laughing, laughing when people are crying. Keeping tall when people are frantic and because of this, being unknown epithet of strength and not an unsocial lunatic.

We all need to grow old to appreciate life to the fullest.

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My study in gray

I have an idea for a new painting percolating in my head. It's going to be of three friends and I in various stages of decrepitude, sitting in a waiting room

By Danny Dalena
Contributor

I WAS young until I was 61. Then one day, I was crossing the street, a motorcycle driver wasn't paying attention, and I literally flew into old age, for a few seconds, I hovered over my body, lying crumpled on the street, the neck slightly askew, and thought, "Not a bad-looking fellow," he he he.

But seriously, I never heard it coming.

In rehab, I savored hunkers turning screws on belts and meeting colorful plastic balls from one end of a convoluted arrive to the other. Nurses in. What could've been child's play had become excruciatingly difficult.

Rehab. It makes you realize that nothing is permanent, and everything you have can be taken away from you in the blink of an eye. Or, more likely, in the burning of a blood vessel in that gray mush you call your brain. There were judges there, and generals, and rich businessmen. And one groundbreaking artist who was a rebel in his time: Leo Aguinaldo. All learning to walk and talk like babies.

One day, an old man in his 80's was wheeled in by his family. I think he must have had a stroke. He was learning to walk all over again. He took two unsteady steps and his diaper fell around his ankles. The old man cried and wouldn't try again. I hated that scene like a painting. I called it "The Fall of Batasan." I wasn't going to surrender that easily.

After six months of rehab, I was walking again with the aid of a cane and had regained use of my right arm. It didn't take long to get back into the swing of things.

Three years and I never going to be friends for life. I thought I might as well make them for a hobby. I even learned to knit an 8-line to get my hands on unique doodads. (Just make interesting baubles. My favorite is a brass New York Public School doodads. I guess I'm hoping it adds a touch of class to this harrowing Elementary School alien.

I wouldn't have thought it, but my wife bits and I even started a new family. Five foster children, a perky chihuahua who snarled our faces her cage at Steinbeiser to touch my hand and my heart. And then came Hannah! We were going to be

MY STORY 2

My daughter-in-law Lanelle's many diets

When we had these gourmet lunches at home, she'd retreat to the end of the table with her package of South Beach Diet, ignoring every bit of the glorious feast on the table

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

IT WAS Dec. 12, and I didn't know how Lanelle's diet would survive the holiday season. She had lost 20 lbs. gained a responsible waistline and a reduction of boobs, and it was more or less that for months, and the family was all cheering for her.

You see, we've been following Lanelle's various diets (every change of it) for years! When she walked down the aisle with my plump son, Boy, 25 years ago, she had been a determined 25 lbs. reduced, radiant bride.

When the cake was being consumed, my daughter Wendy couldn't relate to the groom doll that had such a slim waist. The bride doll was okay. So Wendy just a pat of clay on the groom's tummy and painted a fine veg over it—while, it became they'll be

"HAMACHING CHINGS"

during the honeymoon, they just let go. What a compatible pair they were! In a matter of weeks they had become a fat, happy couple.

But one day in Megastuff Lanelle left diary. Her vision blurred and she felt nauseous, her pulse racing. Her terrified friends guided her to one of the doctors' clinics which found her blood pressure to be 200 over 110! That was when Lanelle turned a new leaf (maybe the 29th) and she began earnestly in diet.

When we had these gourmet lunches at home, she'd retreat to the end of the table with her package of South Beach Diet, ghee and turkey and vegetable juice—beet, cucumber, carrot, celery, and such—ignoring every bit of the glorious feast on the table. (Of course, if her food was good, everyone dipped into it.)

Her weight dropped by 22

MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW 2

We World War II kids can still remember

In a "zonta," all men in town were locked up in school buildings and churches, packed like sardines with no food, no water, no toilet, no sleep, and no talking

Mireyong Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

WE'RE THE World War II kids. A unique breed. The war years (1941-1945) brought us face-to-face with terror, violence, death and hunger as a way of life.

On Dec. 8, 1941, Japanese fighter planes treacherously bombed Pearl Harbor and Clark Field. I was 5 years old.

Remember in our nostalgic mirth, I've been hailing through the diary of my late uncle Pelin Enico, and I was transported back to life during the Japanese rule in my hometown, Mojonjay, Laguna.

The Pelin's seminar diary contained memorable words which captured the thrill and feel of that horrible Japanese rule. These unforgettable words brought back tragic memories.

Balitaw (Tagalog for "announce")—the panic word that sent the residents of Barangay Mojonjay, nestle Sukaw deep into the mounts to immediately flush, hidden nooks and caves where the Japanese could not find them. Nervously, body-tugged something need on his survival.

I carried a coffee pot in one hand and I nestled on the other Sukaw" was triggered by rumors that the Japanese were coming to massacre people, rape women, and burn houses. They put duties Pagsanjan and Los Baños.

Zones (mass concentration of the main population)—all men in town were herded and locked up in school buildings and churches. Packed like sardines with no food, no water, no toilet, no sleep, and no talking, they were huffed and beaten in order to ensure information about guerrilla activities and whereabouts. Lolo Ilio, my grandmother's brother, suffered a heart attack and died inside the zone.

My mother took me to the wilds. The next day, only wrote on and children buried Lolo Ilio. All the men were in prison.

Horror of horrors

Pinagsanay (beheaded)— The horror of all horrors. Aunt Nany's husband, Ka Pelin Indias, the town mayor of Mojonjay, was conscripted as a guerrilla and abducted by the Japanese. It was rumored that Ka Pelin was pinagsanay ng ulo somewhere in the forest of Liliw. His body could not be found. Aunt Nany grieved everyday until she died of a heart attack. I saw my mother cry a bucket of tears during Aunt Nany's funeral. She was my mother's best friend.

Tinaling (wine carnival)—A farmer, a town barrio lieutenant, or other guerilla suspect, was picked up and brought to the municipio, and made to lie on his back propped naked. the captors bared water through his mouth until his stomach was full and bloated, then they pummeled his stomach with a palo-palo until he vomited water. The water torture is a period of many times until the victim passes out.

Binalian (Season with a silk hood). A farmer accused of guerrilla were wrapped by the guerillas, the Japanese roamed off all the men in one neighborhood and lined to the Their wrists bound on the chests, waists, hands and legs, leaving them stunned and crippled for several months.

Binalod (cumbersome and dirty drama!)—He failure to bow before Japanese soldiers, farmer or undressed garbled Japanese orders, the offender was forced to undress and walk under the hot sun for hours on end while subjected the to beatings or dehydration.

Pinagpasenpol (Gapped experiencely on the face)—When a Japanese guard screamed or in response a person, he called him, harsh and boorish, pronouncing his Mabbreviouth tender with slaps on the face. Eyebrows and earsare were spoken in Nipponese. For he getting to bow before a Japanese sentry, our neighbor, Mang Leandro, was pinagsanayan. Wht his face and Bloody and

Bado (mystery state)—The bizarre reunion of the Japanese was a Pilipino native who appeared on the scene with his head fully covered by a bado (a pandan woven shopping bag) which was holes to serve as his eyes. When the Japanese assembled the men in town, Bado would point a finger at the guerilla on the lineup, true or not.

Mahigit (collaborator)— This shadowy individual was a Pilipino who rendered service to the Japanese government. He acted as the mouthpiece for Japanese policies, persuading people to cooperate with Japanese efforts in managing political affairs and government. After the war, the Makapilis were tried by the Philippine government for treason.

Forgive

It's been 70 years since then. Have we forgiven the brutal and masochistic Japanese regime? The destruction and mayhem they've caused? Can we, World War II kids, forgive? We did. It must be our Christian culture, plus a lot of help from the power of our memories.

By the '60s, we had welcomed the return of the Japanese, seemingly overnight. We bought their ceramic rice radios, skincare secondary, Casio calculators, Matsushita electric fans and refrigerators. In the '70s, my first car was a Toyota Crown sedan. My teenage daughters were crazy over Sanrio characters.

In 2002, our family toured Japan. We marveled at Japanese art, ceremonies, culture and the colorful festivals. Japanese politeness and social graces are admirable. Their cleanliness, superb. My current valentine is a Toyota Prius. I'm wearing a Seiko watch.

But we have not forgotten the sufferings. In fact, some angers still lingers in the hearts of Filipino comfort women. None to their '90s, comfort women were young, innocent girls in the early 1940s who were forcibly taken by the Japanese army to be used as their sex slaves (20 to 30 soldiers raped them daily.) They suffered in 1993 to seek justice and restitution from the Japanese government.

To World War II kids (growing and dwindling fast. In a few years we'll all be gone. Will our children and grandchildren even remember our tragic past? Methinks no. They are conscious of three jobs, wired and connected in time overdrawn, knowledge cluttered, and a short attention span. World War II's memories was deemed only for us. We alone can recall the details, relish the dangers and adventures.

We World War II kids are a unique breed. We are not afraid of the unknown.

E-mail bgordonez@gmail.com.

JAPANESE enemy broadcasting his rule with fixed bayonet—a symbol of oppression in the Philippines from 1941-1945

"TYRIN and Ita" ARTIST'S COLLECTION, JAMES CLUTTERBUCK

My daughter-in-law Lanelle's many diets

From page J1

She and her friend promise became a healthy 125/80, 98 with the pressure? Where the fourth Beaten Di or cocked, she climbed to the friend's ed skinny Diet, with to set all systems, mostly most diet that excludes anything from the plant kingdom.

We cringed as she gleefully chomped on crispy pata, have-have, pichol, steak, pork chops and chicharron bulakbol from morning till night. Killer diet: sad but brown rice eating friend. Steamed vegetables—need and an anchovy sprinkle. But to our astonishment, Lanelle's weight remained steady and her blood pressure got lower. And though she looked like she was ready to climb the Himalayas, I was afraid she'd just keel over dead.

Exercise

But this year, for the past four months, Lanelle has stopped dieting. Said she joined some fanatical movement? Had she received some celestial revelation from her departed husband above?

No, she had discovered that it is exercise, and only exercise that really works. Three times a week, a slimming instructor has been coming to Lanelle's house to supervise her activities. Grueling floor exercises, consisting when bent, jumbering the secretary of cellphone or phone. Lanelle has the brown pebbles. She felt great. She looked trim and healthy. But within the month she had to leave for New York for a reunion with old classmates. It was deadly. Lanelle gained 24 lbs in 10 days. When she got back to her exercise regime she lost 9 lbs, have regained two.

In the meantime, her two girls have gone the other extreme. Mia, pixie-become vegetarian. Chin-Chin—avid vegan, meaning no consuming, use of animal or animal products, no wearing of leather belt or shoes.

To top it off, Chin Chin hadn't heard that fire had been discovered. She's into new food. She makes smoothies out of all kinds of vegetables, including pechay and alugbati, apples and oats. She makes chocolate balls out of raw cocoa. Out of long cucumbers strips of cucumber and carrots, she makes a pseudo thin ain't a pasta!.

She soon acquired a heavy duty juicer, a commercial size blender, a dehydrator, a bean sprouter, and a supply of seeds to plant in the ground. She has discovered treasure in the garden like edible ferns, purslane, nettles, mustard. As for Majalya, she does not eat anything on four feet but is happy with fishes that fly. And she wears leather shoes.

She's now why Paul McCartney became a vegan. He was eating lamb chops when he heard the bleating of a flock of sheep and was conscience stricken. He also proclaimed that if all slaughterhouses had glass windows, anyone would ever eat an animal.

As for the mother, we are all still awaiting the latest development. We see, a new restaurant with a emergent food has opened in town.

My study in gray

From page J1

it our family to three two, both female, but then Papi came into our life and all hell broke loose! Two litters in as many years. Pit boys Pedri-Pedri, our miracle baby (she almost didn't make it), and Sugue, (he only survivor and owner of the second litter).

Sugue is the love of my life. She's the boss in our house in Kamuning. She literally walks all over us and treats us like furniture. She loves to perch on my paunch and squeeze, say, demands, mouth-up morning. Ever watching TV has now become a test of concentration, as there is almost always a double pregnant going on. Sometimes it's comedy. Sometimes drama. And sometimes it's all-out war such as trap wants unbathed in Mindanao.

The scent of family

Those pauses sit quickly just playing with our five monsters. And the joy they bring more than makes up for the sun-de-sic bedrun that pervades our home. Now sisters may recoil and wrinkle their noses. But to us, it is the scent of family.

Speaking of family, I now have two: five and grandsons. Boo, oh, and Pilot, one. They are the children of my eldest daughter, Ines, and her husband, Emil. Since Ines and Emil are both filmmakers, they've made his brilliant debut in the film Ka Oryang. In it he cries... and he cries... and he cries... Others might think, "child abuse!" But I'm thinking, "future Oscars!"

It's too early to tell with Paris, but Ines and I have a lot of things in common. Apart from acting the same mental age (no, he's not precocious; I'm retarded), Ines also used to lag behind in speech development. Luckily, by preschool my Ines was reading by years of regular and very expansive speech therapy. I, on the other hand, still say "pack" when I mean "pact," "fact," or "f ck." Which can be a good thing. No one takes it against you when you say "pack this door"—although sometimes the contractors do misunderstandably end up in bathtub bayan boxes.

Boxes, you say? I have stacks and stacks of them. They hold books, clothes, DVDs and old records, which in our household tend to magically multiply like gremlins at a dinner buffet. Some well-meaning people have been trying to convince me to convert my movie library into digital files. Yeah, I'll stick to my generation's iPod: the jukebox. Sure I can't stick it in my pocket, but hey, it does have colored blinking lights and can't be stolen so easily.

My newest toy is a gift from a friend who lives in the States. And I've stocked it full of my favorite classics like Beatrix Potter's "Peter," Victor Woody "Thrwaby," Tickle Persephone's "Memories of Our Dream," and Dido Boyet's "Bahit Ako Maliit(yo." I don't think any of those songs would feel comfortable in an iPod. Baka matapos ako'ng Tsa Tsa Tsa.

I'm turning 39 this January, and as they've done for years, my friends will be coming over to celebrate, drink, and talk of the good old times.

A few things have changed, though. Now the party has to be held on the ground floor because very few of my friends can still make the arduous trek up to the second.

Red wine has taken the place of whisky. And people start leaving at 11 pm. Quite a few have taken permanent leave and are keenly missed. Nick, J.Q., Ding, Mang Nano, we'll drink to you!

I have an idea for a new painting pose.

"ALBARADENE Couple," by Oscap Dadena, from the collection of Manolo Sakai

looking in my head. It's going to be of three friends and I in various stages of decrepitude, sitting in a waiting room. Waiting for that disembodied voice to call out, "Next!"

Where my nose comes, I'm just going to pretend I don't hear, he he he.

WOODEN manger set in a Cathedral from Poland

THE FESTIVE Filipino Belen

INNOVATIVE nativity set in a pocket from Slovakia

WOODEN Christmas tree ornament from the Czech Republic

WOODEN Nativity carved in charcoal from Bled, Slovakia

Find nativity scenes from around the world

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi is said to have introduced the three dimensions of nativity scene to the world after his trip to Egypt and their stable in 1200. He popularized the use of the crèche or manger scene, and it said to have sent live humans and animals on the set. The idea of the nativity scene soon spread to Germany to the 1500s and Christians put these scenes in their churches, homes and parks.

The tradition lives on today in many famous European countries, where the circular, sullen dome the Christmas tree, is often the centerpiece of many of their holiday celebrations.

Georgina, the one-stop religious shop for church needs and individual devotions at the SM Megamall, brings you back to the Middle East with its collection of nativity scenes.

Here, see will find one of a kind collectibles that will bring the true meaning of Christmas to your home. There are exclusive scenes from Russia inspired by the iconic Fabergé eggs, as well as traditional wooden pieces from the Czech Republic.

Poland's famous szopka or nativity scene, are traditionally built in the form of a castle and with gothic spires, baroque domes, and Renaissance facades. Children bring these from house to house as they sing Christmas carols.

Slovakia's manger scenes reflect their folk art tradition of exquisitely crafted woodworks, as well as dolls made from corn leaves.

The collection also includes pocket size nativity sets from the Holy Land and, of course, the two Filipino Belens.

The Georgina Store is located at the 3/L SM Megamall Building B. Call 6347811 or 6384819.

KARELIAN INSPIRED Nativity Scene from Russia

BABY Jesus rests in a cheerful crib from Ukrel, Slovakia

STAR of Bethlehem highlights this colorful nativity set from Poland.

MANGER set from Slovakia features its popular dolls made of corn leaves.

POCKET-SIZE nativity from the Holy Land

TRADITIONAL Szopka is a cathedral shape from Poland

THE CZECH Republic's magnetic manger scene

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN ZEST

It started at the Hilton

It was the first 5-star hotel in the country and its staff became the pioneers of the hospitality industry

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Lifestyle Editor

HELLO! Trinidad, Mumita Arce, Betsy Wells, Lotty Lopez, Lolita Fischer, Rita Ilo, Nobbie Delgado, Marta Chevrugel and Carmita Francisco

IF YOU DON'T a flame calling the USA services filling the thick "Hearsay Manila Hilton," it's a line from a song Bob Hope used to sing on close his TV specials: "Thanks for the memory."

Built during the latter part of the '60s when an academic specialization like hotel and restaurant management was unheard of, the Hilton recruited the young, the eager and the ambitious, many of them just fresh out of college, to nurture and strengthen an infant hospitality industry.

Some pioneers of Class of '67, those hired in the year the hotel was going up, made names for themselves in the future in tourism and other service-oriented professions: Manila Lotta Mabulangan Hotley Manila Hilton's first employee and sales manager, later adviser to US President Bill Clinton and the Philippine government; Journalism Lite, whose entry-level post was secretary to the front office manager and who went on to serve as tourism secretary to President Fidel Ramos; Carlos de la Rosa who rose from bell man to chief marketing officer for Hexagon's Celadon International Hotel.

As prized was a position at the hotel that those from exclusive schools fought to be hired, desk clerks, restaurant service. A debutante who used to receive an P800 monthly allowance from her father settled for a P250-a-month job.

The hotel chalked up other firsts and "bests": the first five-star hotel in the country and the tallest in Manila at 22 stories; the first Catholic chapel in a hotel, a departure from members of the Hilton chain which were strictly secular; the first to draft a law on service charge that enabled hotel service staff to get an additional 10 percent on top of their monthly pay; the first to field smartly uniformed airport representatives to greet arriving guests; the best Caesar salad and roast beef at the Rotisserie; the best disco at 1371; the best tea sandwiches, even the best laundry service.

So good was the roast beef that Heinz Schwander, executive assistant manager, would be summoned one early morn by Gen. Hans Menzi requesting that the dish be prepared along with the famous Caesar salad immediately as it could be

Jacinto Lopez and published by the Friends of Manila Hilton, is rich with gossipy anecdotes like that one, illustrating how the

It started at the Hilton

From page K1

hotel on United Nations Ave., Ermita, became the hub of the country's high- and mighty. Here for the hotel's debut as owner's luxury and as practical, though weighty, handbook for youthful dreamers who plan on a career in the industry.

Bad-mannered mayor

There was that Manila mayor who insisted on bringing his own liquor into the hotel and refusing to pay corkage, and when reminded of the fee by a hotel official, creased a scene. That same mayor habitually but treated the hotel's red carpet for his official luncheons outside, only to have it returned stained and with cigarette burns. After he got the hotel's letter of complaint, he sent a public scolding over all body men to clip up big holes just to show that he was not overreacting (guess who wouldn't bring in their cars or cabs and creating a racket).

Entertaining public officials were no strangers in the hotel's premises as politicians' body guards and aides took turns at testing bread rolls as a game in the coffee shop. Scavenging seats of wives and ministers of big-ego as scandals were averse of correctness fell in the hands of legendary hostess with the mostest Conchita Cruz, 80 diverse were handled with a consummation of tact and firmness.

The Hilton also set the trend of blending expatriate butchers' skills with the locals, including one of the best local ingredients for continental dishes. An example is the dessert named Mango Pavlova after the American film lady Pat Nixon. Fr Reyno Platzner described it as "a hollowed out mango filled with mango pavlin, melons and almond meringues, topped with mango balls and mangoes rolls" and "dramatically presented on glistening ice vessels."

Art showcase

Interior designer Johnny Bello enshrined the hotel for being in its time, "a dwelling pot of contemporary design with touches of various ethnic Filipino cultures joined harmoniously into a unique and functional design." The hotel housed commissioned works like the Jesse "Filipinesque" by Benny Francisco, modern murals by Napoleon Abueva, mural sculptures by Eli Cardillo and was liberally home to local works to promote Philippine artistry. On last profiled offer-ings to a room that throbbed with his creative energy.

A little known attraction section for Gramercy Cosa Samanea is how Cafe Ingles got its name. The suggestions came from two famous

CARPETA Francisco

Bill Tinkal, Lizzy Jacinto Lopez, Ruth Day Reynolds and Maria Teresita Chevregut

LITA POTENZA, GWENDA DYCE-ARGUETA, NILO LIM, Raul Rodriguez and Lolita Delgado Fenster

CAROLYN O' Sullivan aka Daphne with Manuel "Donzi" Benbenbow

JENNY Pena (far-right) with other former Garbiglian models

FRANNIE Jasmin, Lolita Fenster, Lizzy Lopez, Maria Chevregut and Kitty Yason

The class of 1986, 25 years later

DIDJE HAS the knack that guaranteed on the backs of the John 1986 Batchelians. In days between de Manila University class of 1986, there were 500 plus wide-eyed and idealistic freshmen brimming with hope and enthusiasm for how we could all change the world in our own little ways.

Perhaps our Blue '86 hands were a Humanist Abyss, as Aquino on his mother's side Wilma Cordeiro, and a Tañada (Diliag Lorenzo Sr.'s grandson) and though we did not take to the streets as other un- University of the Philippines counterparts did, with our young, brainy and minds there were many different kinds of revolutions taking place.

Twenty-five years hence, the men and women for others that our Jesuit fathers and lay professors hoped we would become have some of age. Most my bunch some bragging rights to say that perhaps we are by far, one of the most generous batches the Ateneo has produced.

Proof of that is the Freedom Fund which by (as of this writing) the targets it set—more than enough money to create a perpetual scholarship fund for deserving students, a rating fund for elderly and other contributions to Bethe Gimeno whose founding "brethren" is a batchmate) and the Lena Belmo Memorial Foundation for hearing impaired children, which was established in the memory of Lenlen, our classmate who passed away from leukemia a few days before we were to graduate in March 1986.

Congratulations go out to the breathtaking fundraising committee composed of the best business and legal minds in our batch. It was awe-inspiring to see them work so hard, and so coordinating to learn how many had given as unselfishly to the causes we were trying to raise money for.

Our batch has observed not an interesting set of young chaps in business and finance, exclusive and formidable corporate and high-caliber lawyers, as BIR judge, teachers and academicians, writers, entrepreneurs, and many who opted to dive to the equally noble task of full-time motherhood. We even produced our Jesuit priests and one Jesuit in training.

It was heartwarming to note that after 25 years, couples who were already together in college remained steadfast and solid—Judge Bruno and Isabel Reyes, Jojo and Ana Lim, and Boodoo (Lizzi Ocampo, Becky and Apple Lazaro) Villadolid. Buck and Cristina (Trina) Garcia to name a few.

A large number of us live overseas but keep strong and close ties to home. Many of those based there may look home in time for the big reunion last night on the grounds of the Ateneo High School General Counts, the scene of our graduation 25 years ago. A few days before, a batch party was held at the Wrecking Hole bar, which is owned by one of our batchmates.

In the shadow of a dictatorship

Twenty-five years later, many of us have changed (physically and otherwise) but many things remain the same. Ours was the generation that grew up in the shadow of a Marcos dictatorship. By the time we were in our last year of college, many of us had only known two presidents—Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos.

Thankfully, as we left the hallowed grounds of our Loyola campus, it was the dawn of Cory Aquino's presidency. Significantly, as we mark our silver anniversary, it is her son who now holds the reins of power, and the daughter of the first president we ever knew is now the first female Senate President.

Ours is a way of seeing full circle, through so many twists and turns. Many of us opted to remain in the country to live and work, others left for greener pastures (mostly in business and finance) but returned to help grow corporations and our country back into health. There were those who left regularly to seek new adventures, and build lives and families overseas, but who are now slowly returning home.

Twenty-five years always makes you stop and take stock of professional and personal lives...or what was, and an what is, and most importantly, on what is yet to be. Definitely, our Jesuit education played a crucial role in helping shape us into the men and women that we have become today...the choices we made, the passions and advocacies we pursue individually and as a collective whole.

We have lost many batchmates in the course of 25 years; some of our parents have gone ahead, a few of us have lost children. In the relationship arena, some remain married to their first loves, some continue to date single and live out the life they have bravely chosen to live, while others chose the road less travelled and found their life would still be happy, even after.

Congratulations on my batchmates EDSA '86 Batch—very well done, boys and girls! I'm proud of all of you, hovering and remembering who you are and what you have been through. I'm pretty sure you are all level up knowing that the best is yet to be. May we all continue to remain healthy, productive and happy pursuing our life's dreams and passions. Here's to the next 25!

E-mail the author at cathy-babao@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @cathybabao.

EDSA'ites at the pre-homecoming batch party at Wrecking Hole, as photographed by batchmate Dave Ayson

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gutierrez

graduate in March 1986.

By the time we were in our last year of college, many of us had only known two presidents—Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos

UP honors Kapampangan literary world with exhibit, book launch

ALBINA Pecson Fernandez again highlights the wit and color of Kapampangan culture in her latest book "Eleven—Riverrun and Ten More Short Stories," which will be launched on today, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., by the University of the Philippines (UP) Committee on Linkages and the Holy Angel University in a Kapampangin literary event at the Clare M. Recto Hall of the Bulwagang Rizal, UP Campus in Diliman.

Billed as "Pamanpitan kuring bata para king edipisyu/Pagtitipon ng mga bata para sa edipisyo/Gathering the stones for the edifice," the event will include the unveiling of an exhibit on Kapampangan writers and writings to be highlighted by the launch of Fernandez' "Eleven."

The fernandez book launch and exhibit is the latest of activities lined up by the UP Committee on Linkages formed by vice-consul Sandy members of the Department of English and Comparative Literature (DECL) and the Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas (DFPP) of the College of Arts and Letters in line with the vision outlined by UP President Alfredo E. Pascual to place UP in the forefront of national development efforts through the academic excellence of its faculty, students, researchers and staff members.

Fernandez started her writing career early in 1956 when her story "The House on Mabolo Hill Street," won the First Prize in the Short Story Writing Contest organized by MMM Gonzales. In the same year she was awarded a fellowship at the UP Writers' Club which she served as secretary-treasurer in 1957-58. She subsequently graduated cum laude in English in 1957, Master in Industrial Relations in 1960, and a Ph.D. in Philippine Studies in 1996 from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

During the centennial celebration of the founding of the Department of English and Comparative Literature this year, she was recognized for her writings on women's studies and short stories. Joining the Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas in 1986 as a collective instructor, she retired as full professor in 2003. She was a founding member of the UP Center for Women's Studies, its deputy director for Research and Publication from 1997-2000, the editor-in-chief of its official newsletter Dateline from 1989-2003 and the editor-in-chief of the Review of Women's Studies. Among her other awards and citations are the Gawad Chancellor as Outstanding Extension Worker for 1995 given by the UP Diliman Chancellor; Pagkilala sa Pagtitiyaga ng Anding Roxas given by the DFPP in 1993; the Most Outstanding Kapampangan Award for Culture and the Arts given by the Office of the Governor of Pampanga in 2001; and the Most Outstanding Mexicano for Culture and the Arts given by the Office of the Mayor of Mexico, Pampanga in 2003.

In 2000, she convened the First International Kapampangan Studies Conference. The Holy Angel University recently honored her contribution to the establishment of the Juan Sisyongco Center for Kapampangan Studies.

ANETTE de Ocampo, Sen. Edgardo J. Angara and Dean Elena Hirano

GRANT FOR DULAANG UP'S 'MOLI' OPERA

Singapore part of 19th-century-year-long celebrations of Moli's birth sesquicentenary. Moli Mo Tangere: The Opera enjoys much of its success through the generous grant given by the Office of Sen. Edgardo Angara, Maynilad, and Manila Watermarks. Diners who have also generously given their support are UP Office of the President, UP Diliman Office of the Chancellor, UP Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts, UP Office of the Dean College of Arts and Letters, Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Sen. Alan Cayetano, RESA Chief Ivan Jun de Leon, Day by Day Christian Ministries, CASAF Alumni Foundation, and Ms. Irene Marcos Araneta. "Moli Mo Tangere: The Opera" is directed by Alexander Cortez with vocal coaching and music supervision by Camille Lopez Molmisa and Pablo Molmisa Molina. Remaining shows today, Dec. 4 (15 p.m. and 3 p.m.) and Dec. 6 and 8 (7 p.m.) at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines Diliman. For ticket inquiries, please contact Cherry Bong Lesaba at 0917-1500102 or the DUP Office at 926-1346.

Kapampangan Center to launch 6 books, including 'Cruceiro,' by ex-Cervantes chief Jose Rodriguez

THE HOLY Angel University Center for Kapampangan Studies will publish this month six books tackling various topics from Kapampangan history to Kapampangan linguistics and cuisine. The publications are part of the celebrations to its 10th anniversary in March 2012. The books are: "O Jo, Ni'Ca Meralun?" by Papa Oranubal (Oscar Rabajalda); "Cruceiro: Spanish Galicia as Some Crossroads in Philippine History and Culture (1521-1600)" by Jose "Pepe" Rodrigues and Lisa Dizon; "Talalabuglare: English-Kapampangan Glossary" by Joel Mallari; "Kapampangan Ku: Encyclopedia of Kapampangan Biographies Vol. 1" by Ivan Anthony Henares; "Eleven: Riverrun and Ten More Short Stories" by Albina Pecson Fernandez, and "Aching Lillan's Heirloom Recipes: Romancing the Hut through Traditional Cuisine Capampangan" by Lillian Liong Borromeo.

"Cruceiro" will have a formal launching on December 13, 4 p.m. at the University's Gab Juan. Copublished with the Centro Gallego de Filipinas, the book explores how the unique cultural traits of the Galicians of northwestern Spain impacted on their colonization of the Philippines.

"O Jo, Ni'Ca Meralun?" is an all Kapampangan book that attempts to explain how sometimes terms and phrases today evolved from ancient Kapampangan words and how they were influenced by Sanskrit, Chinese, Spanish and other languages.

"Talalabuglare" is a glossary of English words and their corresponding Kapampangan translations. According to Center for Kapampangan Studies Director Bobby Dominguez, that is the type of book that many people are looking for because it gives the familiar English words first before the unfamiliar Kapampangan equivalents.

"Kapampangan Ku" is the first of a two-volume encyclopedia of biographies of memorable Kapampangans, living and present. It contains inspiring entries, "people you never thought were Kapampangans," Dominguez said. He said the book defined a Kapampangan as someone born in the Kapampangan speaking region or someone with at least one parent who was a Kapampangan.

"Eleven" is an anthology of short stories set in Pampanga against the backdrop of the social unrest sweeping the province in the 1930s. National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera called this "a collection of dazzling short stories." The author, Prof. Fernandez of UP Diliman, is the leading proponent of Kapampangan literature in English.

Lastly, "Aching Lillian's Heirloom Recipes" is a unique cookbook because it features little-known folk dishes in the Pampanga countryside like "pakang dalusan," "bagul tabad lamak," "sarsang bambalo," "sarsuela ning mulat," "inekang tingak," "bangus sarimanok," as well as family recipes from the ancient Hausa Binacolan clan of Mexico, Pampanga.

Earlier this year, the Center also published "Cuisine historica Kapampangan: Historical Kapampangan Cuisine," "Pinatubo: A Volcano in our Backyard" by Bobby Dominguez, and "The Fighting Birds: The Death Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War" by Bernard Edward Hake.

Fanning the flame of Pinoy pride with inihaw

By Michelle Velez

Sooo Pinoy Ambassador Joana Changa indulges on inihaw

Waiting for a loved one to wake up

Twelve years ago, her daughter Sylvia fell into a coma from which she hasn't awakened. Today, Charito Estella talks about pain, fear, hope and keeping the faith

Lonnie Cruz

PRIVATE LIVES

WHAT WERE you doing before you got married?

I was teaching at St. Therese's College. I taught Grammar and Literature to high school students. I taught for three years, and then I was swept off my feet by my husband. Back in the '60s, the school did not accept married teachers, so at the end of the year I had to retire. I became her Lolly Magazine, your editor in chief, was my student. She even wrote an article about me.

You had a happy life and a happy family.

Yes, I had four children, three who eventually ended up living in the US. One of them also lived in London. My eldest is in his early 50s, and the youngest is in his 40s. I have three boys and one girl.

Tell us about Sylvia, your daughter.

Sylvia was 28 when she had the heart attack. This happened January of 1988. She was living in the States with her husband, a Filipino, and her two sons, Miggy and CJ, when it happened. I received an early morning call, around 5 a.m. I answered the phone, and it was my eldest son Pocholito. He told me that Sylvia had a heart attack. She was rushed to the hospital. Her heart stopped.

How did you react?

I was weak-kneed. I remember I did not want to break down. I tried to be strong because I didn't want my husband to see me. Then I called her very good friend Anita Arevalo, and I asked her if she could stay with me at home. Anita came and she suggested that we pray 2,000 Hail Marys. We prayed from 3-9 p.m. I was like a zombie. Sylvia's friends and our relatives started coming to the house. They prayed so until they had to leave, and then other people would come to pray with us.

All throughout the ordeal, I had the support and concern of my friends and family.

You and your husband flew to the States the very next day. How did you feel when you first saw her in the hospital?

Her eyes were closed. She had all those tubes. I could not help but break down. There was much pained. She was still unconscious. That's when the doctor told me: "Everything is in His hands now." I know already the condition's make up. My husband never knew shortly earlier that I suspected that it was more months, hoping, waiting. I was hoping there would be schmaga.

Did she have a heart problem?

When she was about 17, she was playing tennis, she complained to a friend that she had cavity. I had a doctor check her, may order done to the suspension— that no problem, she could live normal life.

How did you and your husband react when you found out she wouldn't wake up?

I was numb. I must have cried quietly. My husband also took it quietly, he was a very self-control man. He passed away four years ago. But during his wake, his friends told me how he really felt. They said part of his life had crumbled because of what happened to Sylvia. He was carrying all of that quietly, all along, until he died. I also thought about her children, who were both in grade school when it happened. What will take care of them?

How was Sylvia as mom? As a friend?

She was a very good mother. I remember, she had an MBA from Santa Clara University, but when Wal-Mart opened in Caliburn, she applied, on the condition that she would bring her baby to work. She was a hands-on mother. I would see her oldest prepare his homework and I would ask him: "Where did you learn that? Who taught you that?" And he would say: "My mama taught me." After Sylvia's stroke, he matured very quickly. Her youngest son was also very affected. He started clinging to his father afterwards. The father became his crutch. Sylvia's husband got a child psychologist to talk to the children, which helped. The community where Sylvia studied hosed her. She was active in her religious group, her social group and in work.

It was a wedding gown then. What happened after?

Sylvia has so many friends who are priests. There was always a room in her hospital room, and I appreciate it so much. Some her friends really rallied around her. Now I don't know if her friends still visit her, maybe they had to move on.

They had to transfer her after a while because in California, they couldn't keep a patient in a coma. Her family brought her home but the caregiver could not handle it. Her husband eventually found a very good hospice in San Marcos. She's very well taken care of. A lot of the caregivers in there are Filipinos, sometimes we give them treats from boodbucks.

How is her family now? Is her husband?

When the eldest graduated from grade school, Sylvia was still in the hospital. He delivered something like a valedictory speech and everyone in the audience was teary-eyed, even the students. They gave him a standing ovation. They all knew his mother could not be there on this very important day of his life.

He and his brother then went on to get a Jesuit education, like their mother. The kids have now moved on; one is in his first year of college in Stanford, the other finished in Georgetown and has a job in Washington. They did very good. The father is also busy, he's now in another love.

What about her husband? Was it all death-do-us-part?

Although her husband is a devout Catholic, he remarried, but I was told they parted ways. He introduced me when she was his friend. I didn't take it against him, but I told him that in the eyes of God, and as far as I'm concerned, you're still married to Sylvia. He requested the court to appoint him legal custodian for Sylvia when she was declared brain dead.

What about all the expenses?

Sylvia had insurance. After a certain period of time the insurance company does not cover the expenses any more. The state now takes care of it.

It's been 12 years. Are they still in pain? Are you?

We don't talk about it anymore. The eldest, the one in Washington, would sometimes call and tell me: "Mom, I'm going home for Thanksgiving," I'll just say, "Don't forget to visit your mom," she'll say, "Yes, I always do." I'm at an age where I can no longer take the pain. Mind it: to have lived when my husband was still alive and he'd tell me to visit, I'll say no. Mother open my ebi. It's an emotional pain beyond words.

When my husband and I used to visit, I would travel to prepare myself to the car. From my husband stayed outside the room. Then he'd come in and say, "Hyl... Syl, Daddy's here." Then he'd go outside again. She's his only daughter. The only girl. My two other children who live there visit her regularly, still hoping to make her cry.

I always wondered if there was a difference between pulling the plug and not giving treatment. Yet many believe in the dignity of dying since there is no pain or suffering. Do you believe in euthanasia?

CHARITO Estella

SYLVIA Estella Chuapoco

CHARITO Estella portrait by Anita Magsaysay-Ho, 1981

No. I never even considered it. I don't even want to think about it. I don't even want to consider organ donation because I'm scared they might kill her. A priest once said, "Minsan ang mga mata ni Sylvia." I said "Father, there are no tubes. She only has one tube, for food." The priest said, "Iba-ang kuwing mo sa kuan."

Did you ever wish that Syl would go naturally?

She is brain dead and that is what is most painful. Sometimes it looks as if she can hear me. She can open her eyes. If they're open, she's awake. Her eyes are so glassy but she looks around. She also moves her head. Sometimes she looks at me but you see in her eyes that she sees nothing. But when I tell her she will turn her head. I ask her, "Can you hear me Sylvia?" Sometimes I say, "Sylvia, let's pray the rosary." Then I'll sit down beside her and we'll pray.

I think about what will happen when no one can visit her anymore, because nobody can stay with her every day in the States. Sometimes I say, "God, take her already if she cannot come back to us entirely, I will submit to Your will." But then, I would not know how to deal with her death if ever that did happen.

What is one good thing that you will carry from this?

I worry about her children. But I think Sylvia did a very good job with them. They are well-brought up. They don't have any chips on their shoulders. No self-pity. Very strong, like their mother. Sylvia's heart is so strong. That's what has kept her alive.

Did you ever get angry with God? Did you ever give up on Him?

No, I never gave up on Him. It's not for me to decide. There is always that lingering hope that God will bring her back to us. Every night I assign myself to God's will, but I also tell Him, God, if you want to heal her, you can.

How do you cope? Have you moved on?

Moving on and forgetting are very different. I don't have a job or any business so I don't have any obligations to worry about. So I pray and go to Mass. A short vacation for me is playing a friendly game of mahjong. It's also to avoid disturbances. I always pray to God to heal my memory. I don't want any bad or bitter memories.

I always remember my husband, but I remember him with kindness. Someone once told me after he died, do not grieve for him, mourn for him. Yes, I am mourning us, but I'm not forgetting. My daughter and husband are in my heart and I heal all the time. They are always in my prayers. I can never forget.

What is the most difficult part of the ordeal?

The good memories. Coping, insecurities you ask. "Where are you? Sylvia, where are you?" Sometimes I think, "Why?" But I don't want to question why. I was never angry, and I never stopped praying. If I was not prayerful before than, now I really am. I have heard some friends say no death is the magnanimous thing parents do big, but not me. I always hang on to my faith.

HIGGY and Carlos Jose Chuapoco

Cardmember rewards designed for highly mobile lifestyles

THE LATEST Philippine edition of "Incentive," the American Express Membership Rewards Catalogue 2011, is out.

Highly anticipated by both cardmembers and non-members, the catalogue has become a barometer of the products and perks sought after not only by American Express Card members but also of the aspiring set.

Incentive offers its members premium rewards from the finest names in travel, shopping, dining, technology and wellness. Some of the must-have gadgets that cardmembers can redeem are the Apple MacBook Air with the latest generation Intel Core i5 and i7 processors; the Panasonic Lumix with a dedicated movie shooting button; the waterproof, shockproof, and freeze-proof Sony DSC-TX10 digital camera; the WiFi Apple iPod 8; and the wireless touch screen Samsung Galaxy Tab.

"Offering our cardmembers with more options from the Incentive, such as the gadget of the moment, is but one of many ways we have stayed close to our cardmembers' lifestyle needs," says Shannon H. Segala, Consumer Lending Marketing senior vice president of AMEX, the exclusive merchant acquirer and issuer of American Express Cards in the Philippines.

To engage highly mobile customers, Incentive's Frequent Flyer and Frequent Guest Programs are among the best in the industry. American Express Membership Rewards Points may be converted to the frequent flyer programs of up to 46 airline partners such as Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Thai Airways, American Airlines and British Airways, so that they can redeem their air miles into free flights to Paris to shop, to New York to dine in the finest restaurants, or to the Caribbean to soak in the beaches.

Incentive also offers rewards in terms of shopping vouchers at such exclusive brands as Bazaarly, Rustan Specialties, Inc., Adora, Stella Luna, Shinsen and The Travel Club.

More importantly, Membership Rewards Points do not expire, as American Express cardmembers can redeem their points for rewards values, even they please. Points accumulated from supplementary Cards are automatically added to the basic card's account.

Visit www.americanexpress.com.ph, or call the 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 811-477.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Xandra Ramos Padilla's Christmas picks

National Book Store's Merchandising Director for Books shares her favorite giftable reads this season

By Pam Pastor

Xandra Ramos Padilla is constantly surrounded by books. As National Book Store's purchasing director, it is her job to decide which books are sold at the chain's 150 branches.

Her work becomes extra tricky during the holidays, when people go to National Book Store in droves to shop for Christmas gifts for their loved ones. But Xandra isn't fazed. "We want to make this Christmas extra special for people. We want to allow them to give personalized gifts that are affordable."

Xandra thinks books make good Christmas gifts. "I think books are very thoughtful gifts because it shows the person you're giving the gift to that you really know them. There are books for everyone. It's just a matter of finding the right book for the right person."

Xandra's suggestic giving "Home-made Fun: The Holidays: 65 Treats To Enjoy At Home Or Give As Gifts" by Alison A. Anastasio and Angela Boswell to your friends. "I like this book because you know how some people have a signature cookie or signature brownie? I don't, so instead of giving them baked goods, I can give them this book and they can find their signature cookie or brownie in it," she said.

For your colleagues and managers, she suggests giving "Decorating With Reward" by Roberta Caldeira and Elizabeth D'Alessio. "You can give your mommy nanay or school "Skills Know-it-All Tiger Stuffed" by Amy Chua. It's now available in paperback for P345."

Xandra also plans to give the two books National Book Store published this year as Christmas gifts. "These were my two pet projects this year – Food to Food by Blanca Valerio and Fashion x Food" by Jenni Kayeman. We taught them we want to help people live better lives one through makeup and the other through styling your home. Fashion + food would be perfect for your couple friends and you can give Food to Face to your female friends."

Another hot book is Steve Jobs' biography by Walter Isaacson. "It's the book of the season," Xandra said.

People Gastronomo would like Magsik. "You can give the book to them with the special Paolo Coelho calendar."

People who love to travel would like "1,000 Places To See Before You Die." "I know people really check off the list and they updated it so they'll have a new list to check off."

For young adults, Xandra said the big releases are "Cabin Fever," which is the latest Diary of A Wimpy Kid book by Jeff Kinney and "Clockwork Prince" by Cassandra Clare. "And of course "The Hunger Games" trilogy by Suzanne Collins is still hot because the movie is out in cinemas so by next year," she said.

National Book Store has a list of boxed sets that can be perfect presents. "I think it's great to give kids boxed sets because you get them started on reading," Sandra said. "And there are also activity books for just a little over ₱100 for your to-

wonder."

Xandra also likes giving out the Moleskine Passions journals to her friends.

But books aren't the only things people buy at National Book Store during the holidays. They start selling Christmas decor as early as September. "It's also a great place for stocking our very own cabinet, wrapping paper and gift bags."

National Book Store has also started selling the luxury Cloisonne brand Crown & Co. Earrings and "I love the more grounded and earthy ones. We're also debuting the Christmas line this season and we're selling it at 20% off. There are great gifts to give. For less than a thousand, you have a very luxurious gift."

Xandra said, "National Book Store takes the guesswork out of giving gifts," she said.

A foundation for reading

National Book Store's Project Aklat has collected 100,000 books since 2006

In a perfect world, every kid would develop a love for reading. But how can this happen if they don't have access to good books?

In 2000, National Book Store Founder Jose Ramos launched a Christmas campaign that aims to gather good quality reading materials for distribution to public elementary school students. Since its launch, Project Aklat has collected 100,000 books and has distributed them to different schools from Bangsal Province to Mindanao.

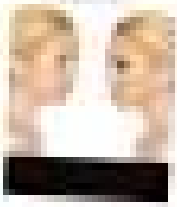
Next year, National Book Store hopes to do is looking forward to building more and more libraries for the reading pleasure of thousands of kids nationwide.

You can take part in Project Aklat. Visit any National Book Store, Powerbooks and Bestsellers branches and observe from the wide array of books you can purchase and donate. Book plate stickers are available so you can personalize your donation. Your name tag will also be hung on a Project Aklat tree.

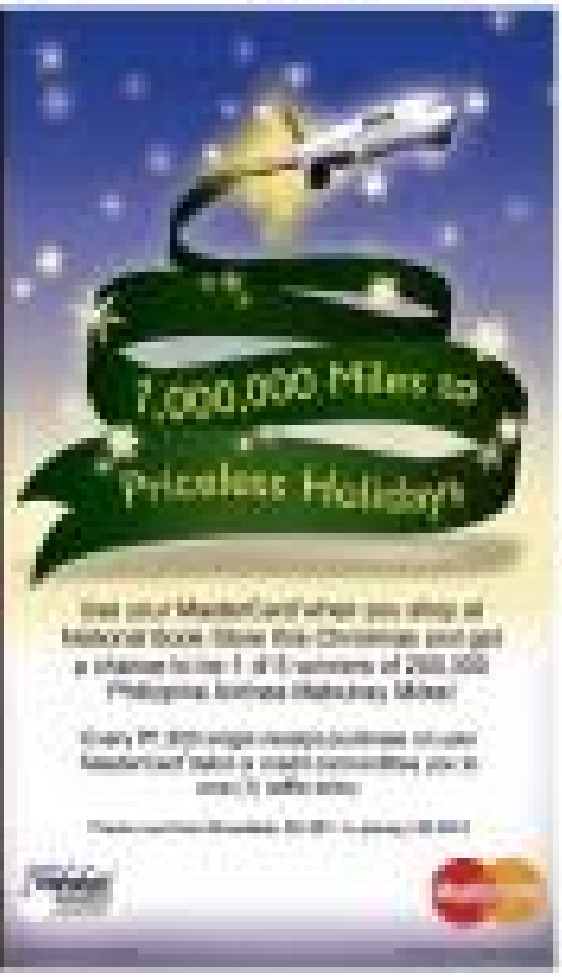
Project AKLAT
A CHRISTMAS BOOK DRIVE
For every children's book sold, ₱1 will be donated to National Book Store Foundation.

Jenni Epperson's take on Fashion + Food

Bianca Valerio goes 'Face to Face' with National Book Store



What are you buying at National Book Store this Christmas?



Christmas finds for the whole family

National® Book Store

Best Buy Crayons

Best Buy Colored Pencils

Trodat Stamper 4912

Trodat Stamper 9412

Trodat Stamper 9460

Paper One Copy Paper

A Plus Copy Paper

Eastern Colored Bond Paper

Yazaka Yellow Pad

CBE Iron On T-Shirt Inkjet Transfer Paper

Asia Paper Collection

Best Buy Japanese Paper

Best Buy 2012 Planners

Bantex Assorted Ballpoint/Rollerball/Pencil Set

Security Morocco Folder

Security U.S Folder 14 pts. 18"x

Pilot Frixion Ball Sign Pen

Stabilo Swing Cool Highlighter

Ink For Less Ink Cartridge Refill

Ink For Less Toner Cartridge Refill

Security Illustration Board

Oreo Heart Handknitting and Crochet Yarn

Meicar Marketing Safety Signages

Dumot

Cosmopolitan Magazine

Just A Moment

G.B. Wilhelm Music Covers

Association for Educational Assistance Mass Cards

The Holy Bible Good News Translation

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

GALAXY S II designs

Smartphone leads the way in design sophistication

SINCE ITS release last April in both the Korean and the global markets, Samsung's Galaxy S II has broken the 10 million-mark in cumulative sales worldwide.

Tony Fouguerk, senior designer at Samsung Electronics' mobile communications business unit and the creator the Galaxy S II, says: "It took us four months to refine the idea and another year to review. We wanted to incorporate the glamour of the Interlaken, Switzerland, into our design and create a luxurious and yet sensual appeal inspired by the night yet light scattering of light."

The designer and his team played around with the idea of shades and the glitter created when light touches the surface of an object. Galaxy S II also employed Hyper-Mim—a new finish method to visualize more sophisticated patterns for the textured rear cover. The fingerprint-loving comes from micro patterns resembling woven material. The technically structured dressing prevents fingerprints and scratches.

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Fashion ruled on and off the runway at 2011 Look of Style Awards

AT THE 2011 Look of Style Awards, a young designer's fashion competition held for the second year by Look Magazine and Inquirer Lifestyle, in collaboration with British Council of the Philippines and Samsung, the most awaiting outfits weren't only spotted on the all-white runway of the Sunken Garden.

Stylish who was somebody in society and style rocked the photo stall and the pre-event weekends in fashion that confirms the Pinoy penchant for impeccable dressing—and a little risk-taking, idiosyncratic chance.

Last year's winner Bobbi Cabahug opened the fall house with a dramatic five-piece collection, followed by the classic, lean, quirky creations of Lilit Ilp, the UK counterpart to our local designers.

As for the much-anticipated contest, sizing, Omnigbibi creations by 10 finalists from as far as Cebu and Cagayan de Oro impressed crowds and made the role of judge an unenviable one.

By night's end, it was Gerd Gonzalez' edge interpretation of the 'classy

FASHION #2

Li'l Xmas Toes
Season's cutest shoes just for you.

Become a fan: SM Shoes and Bags
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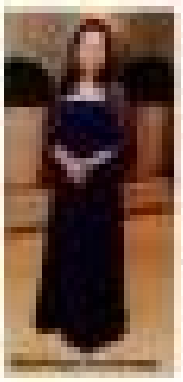
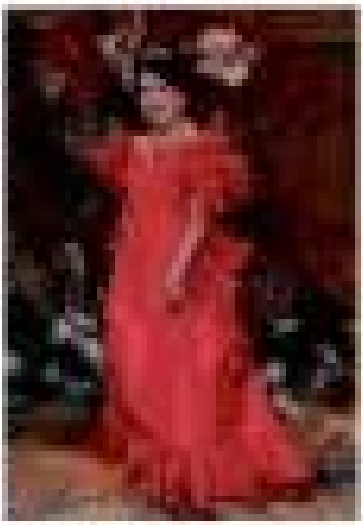
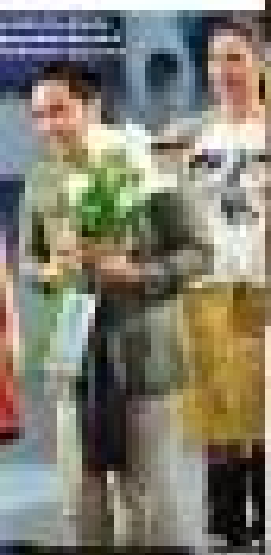
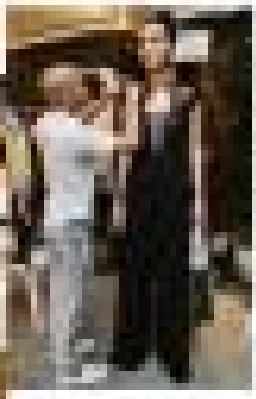
Fashion ruled on and off the runway at 2011 Look of Style Awards

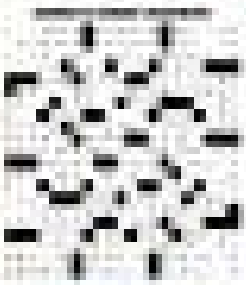
Glam ball raises funds for arts and culture

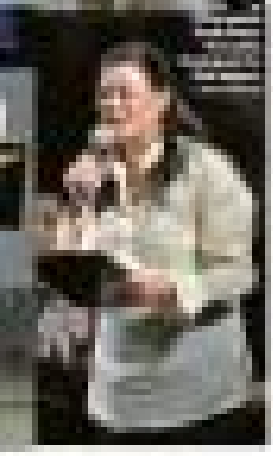












Li'l Xmas Toes

Season's cutest shoes just for you

Smartphone leads ...

Rio Dejesus-Buenaventura with son Ivrigo shop for their holiday finds at Surplus.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT SURPLUS

This holiday, treat yourselves and your loved ones to a new holiday wardrobe from Surplus.

Business newsman and Smile2Save Advocate Rio Dejesus-Buenaventura and her son Ivrigo had a great time shopping their holiday finds at Surplus. "When buying clothes, I make sure that these are of good quality, and comfy to wear regardless if these are branded or not," she says. "Value for money is more important, that's why I love shopping at Surplus."

A sporty dresser loves Surplus' "tank tops and wraps, which I always mix and match. And also their jackets that I always bring during my travels abroad." When shopping for her kids, Rio loves Surplus's cool printed shirts and denim jeans.

For little fashionista Gabrielle Francesca Cruz Evangelista or Gab as her mom Carissa Surplus' pretty party dresses, trendy tops and sturdy colored tees and cool jeans.

The holiday collection is available at Surplus stores located at most SM Supermalls and at the newly opened SM Cubao Branch. Surplus is also in Facebook – simply search and visit Surplus Shop in Facebook.

Rio checks out the latest trends at Surplus.

Rio and son Ivrigo on their Surplus finds. Brown wrap worn with a navy blue hooded top and pants for her while Ivrigo likes the green printed shirt and denim jeans.

"This gold padded and cool black longsleeved top from Surplus is something I would want in my loved ones' this holiday," says Rio.

Yellow spaghetti strapped dress with butterfly and bow appliques.

Gab's long sleeved multi colored top worn with jeans from Surplus.

Gab is ready to party with Surplus's holiday collection. Empire black top with pink bow and matching sequin pants.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SEATS and the runner on top of a wooden box filled with previous stationeries

DOODLE clips and ribbons become cupcake companions

TRISH Panlilio with her favorite floral bouquet of lilies and roses

'It's better to be Rocky Road than vanilla'—and Trish Panlilio's paper-strewn home reflects it

Her Papillo Fine Stationers business keeps the romance of writing on paper alive

By Margo C. Enriquez

UPON ENTERING the home of Patricia "Trish" Panlilio, you get this "in the manner-born" ambience. It's not one of those residences designed by a hotshot architect and furnished with the latest Italian brands and paintings by popular Filipino modernists.

On the contrary, it exudes a very personal style. The house is modern yet kindly mixes with the third world, arched entrances and grills. The interior decor is modern eclectic with a dose of English pastoral. Floral bouquets abound, along with large wood pieces with simple, decorative details. Jute and seagrass furnishings, all in earth tones with bright accents. There is a sense of family history with the proliferation of family photos. The mood is kept light by modern motifs imbued with quirky finds.

"I don't want visitors to say the look is by this architect," says Panlilio.

Four years ago, Panlilio was the Philippine representative to Tatler Asia's Most Stylish Women event, and rightly so. It's not just her elegant but nonchalant dress sense that's striking, but also the way she decorates her home, entertains friends and selects the merchandise for Papillo Fine Stationers.

In this age of smartphones, tablets and other digital media, there is something wonderfully old-fashioned about using stationery as a way of communicating and cherishing events. Panlilio keeps that romance alive with her business.

Words of love

In her home, stationery samplers—note cards with vivid floral borders, evergreen trees, bamboo and vines—are laid out on the luncheon dining table. For traveller customers, there are note cards with bold stripes and polka dots and patterned pads with matching mini clip boards.

The look/look has occasion cards for all occasions. For a lingerie bridal shower, there are smiles on bangles adorning a birthday card. For the bonafide wedding branch of a traditional couple, an invitation card has shoes at the back of a car, along with rice and a "Just Married" sign. A card with a little black dress on the model is appropriate for a bachelorette party. The motto of an 'It Girl' depicts a responsible woman from baptism and First Communion cards are available. Party cards are suffused with motifs of mentor and champagne glasses.

For birthdays, the numbers 25, 30, 40, 50 and 75 are done with bold patterns to emphasize the big day. Anniversary dinner cards are painted with grapes, while a 50th wedding anniversary invite depicts rosaries, wine, bracelets, veils and all that abundance.

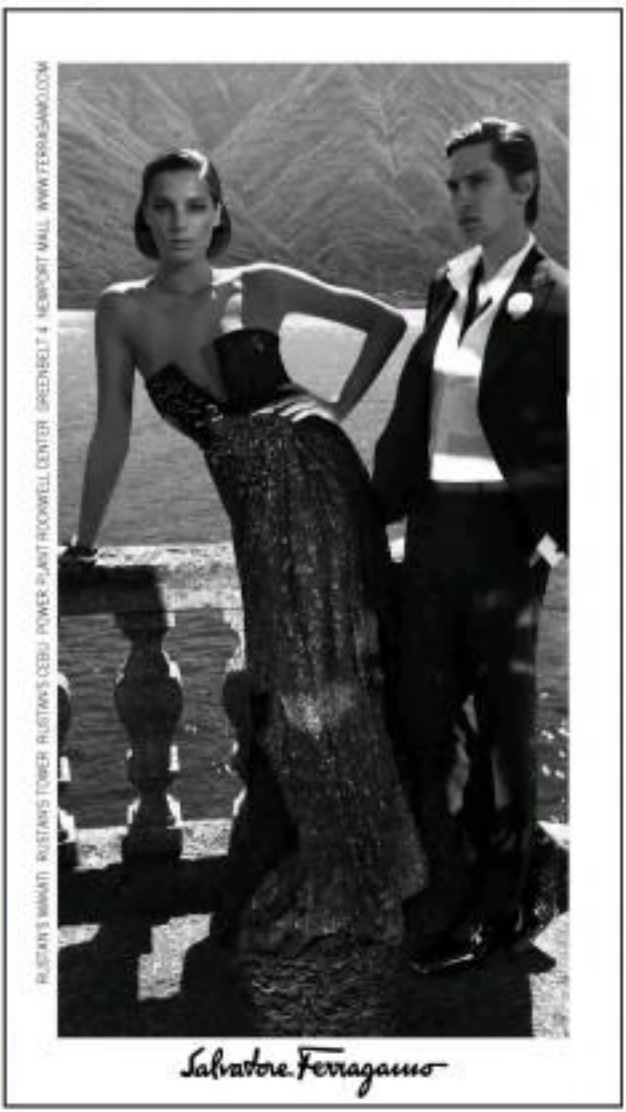
There are little notebooks with floral covers and sequins and cute pads, with matching feathered pencils and doodle clips with faux post-it notes and luggage tags. Popular notes reflect Panlilio's witty humor. One reads "Dump this to-do list and create sanity." Another note card pictures a lady with mismatched patterned clothes, stockings and boots, and carrying the sign "Sorry it tangles!"

Panlilio comes to answering to Cesar Enrique phallomy sandals. She is in flared jeans, tee her usual shorts or skirted gowns. A Missoni tank shirt, she says, is her uniform outside.

She has just rearranged her house, she reveals, since she and her sons preferred books over television, and books are now favorite decor motif all

READ MORE ON P2

STATIONERY with buttons go well with the leather duster from Paris



'It's better to be Rocky Road than vanilla' –and Trish Panlilio's paper-strewn home reflects it

Turn page 9

over the place—though with a twist. For instance, a bookshelf with classics such as "Moby Dick," "Anna Karenina," "Winds of Love" and "Little Lord Fauntleroy" is punctuated with authorities in "Now Decide; Freak Out." Her corner displays "Heaven and Hell, Hindenseelle" by Harold Carlton, a reflection of Panlilio's self-deprecating humor.

The place is also enlivened with floral bouquets and candles. "I love candles, aromatherapy and flowers. These are the joys of my life," says Panlilio.

Time-worn look

Like the designs in her stationery materials—her award in upkeep...Lachenaie, abstract, dip, line-size brands, a rustic basket, salad and homemade food are from her secret recipe. The table is laden with her arrangements of asters, chrysanthemums, peruvians, plumeri on vintage flower pots from a flea market.

Most curious opposites fill the house. The staircase is lined with traditional wreaches, plants and plastic tools that have been used by Panlilio's sons since they were children. Above them are oil paintings done by the eldest, Quinito, Jr., when he was nine years old. Beside the Christmas tree are Annie's rustic plates and an Ivanna doll.

A Santa Claus doll and his mouse sits on top of a big wooden holder filled with corks from bottles. Another opposite presents old luggage with wooden boxes resembling books. Behind it is a shelf adorned with flower boxes whose sides have a time worn look. Panlilio says she likes objects that exude the vanished look because they have more character.

The powder room is like a boudoir, as it has a shower curtain of contrasting black and off-white stripes and a bowl of breathfully arranged soaps. The main living room, meanwhile, is furnished with a comfy sofa set against an Oriental cocktail, a two-seater and a divan. They coexist with Chinese warrior chairs and the black glass coffee table.

An informal corner is arranged with rattan multi-seat backed by Ivory chairs and a wooden table with a profusion of her favorite candidacies, plus spider mums, chrysanthemums and asters. As a finishing touch, Panlilio sprays the room with an orange scent that's both calming and uplifting.

Panlilio is proud of her individualism. "It's better to be Rocky Road than vanilla," she says.

For details, contact Panlilio at (+6332 8305295, 0909-3952208 or 0918-930-9832. Twitter: @pnl_cmics or visit website www.panlilioenterprises.com

PAIRING the food with the food card

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CHERUB likes his stationery dotted.

FLORAL arrangements against vintage flower pots found in a flea market

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PRINCESS Tiana and Naveen

MICKEY and Minnie are here in Manila!

FILIPINO Jessica Lopez, dancer the role of Princess Tiana.

'Disney on Ice' skates back this Christmas

By Walter Ang
Contributor

"DISNEY ON Ice" returns to Manila with "Disney On Ice: Let's Celebrate!" from Dec. 23 until Jan. 3, 2012, at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The ice-skating show features more than 50 Disney characters dancing and singing to songs from different Disney films. Mickey Mouse will use his "Global Destinatoe" to bring everyone to different holidays and celebrations around the world to perform with the show. Legion has performed in Canada, Japan and China. "This will be my first time performing and visiting the Philippines," she says.

LOOKS pure

Mickey Mouse will use his 'Global Destinatoe' to bring everyone to different holidays and celebrations around the world

"Down the line, I would like to take classes while on tour to start obtaining my credits," she says. Lopez aims to obtain a double major in English and Mathematics with a minor in Dance.

Her first role was playing Pocahontas. "Since then, I have been in three different shows and this will be my fourth year with the company. I've been honored to play several roles and share with amazing people.

Visa

Visa cardholders can avail of any of the three Visa Exclusive Bundle Deals, especially priced packages exclusive to Visa cardholders from now until Dec. 14.

The Lower Box Bundle includes four Lower Box tickets, one souvenir program and one Celebration Pony Hat (P4,600). The Upper Box 4 Premium Bundle includes four Upper Box A VIP tickets and one jumbo popcorn (P12,320).

"Visa has been a global partner of The Walt Disney Co. for 14 years," says Iain Anderson, Visa country manager for Philippines and Guam. "This promotion for the Manila run of 'Disney on Ice: Let's Celebrate!' is our 'treat and gift' to cardholders to thank them."

"Disney on Ice: Let's Celebrate!" runs Dec. 23-Jan. 3, 2012, at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. The Exclusive Bundle Packs can be booked at www.ticketnet.com.ph, SM Ticket outlets (www.smtickets.com.ph) or www.visaevents.com.ph.

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SMART

Top exec goes ballistic, acts as censor

By the Entertainment Staff

POWERFUL Xian is at it again.

PE once ordered a news story modified because it had prepped up Chinamin Hui, putting Imanchil Starlet in a bad light. PE obviously dresses Hi and Invisible.

Early this week, PE went ballistic again. Another girl, Maddy Xia, got in trouble. PE was allegedly behind the "conspiracy" to censor an explosive story aired on a talk show.

According to a mole, PE even managed to stop the living daylights out of broadcast personality remote that SP "orchestrated" the entire fiasco.

Last-minute filler

In a show his event, Top four was supposed to be a splashy production number. A day before the affair, TS backed out, saying the dance number was way too strenuous. Turned out, TS was recovering from a severe illness.

Fortunately, Penny Gordon agreed to patch-in, learning the complicated choreography in under five hours. What a pro!

Under the influence

So young and so sexual! Promising starlet was spotted drunk as a skunk at

MOTHERS beats the Pinay MC controversy

screamy-evening hehe.

According to mole tales, TS wanted to forget her scenes—specifically Pop idol Vhonk, who broke her heart.

PH should take extra caution, lest PE complain to her Pogracious Papa. Re: mole, sah! PE too young to go for flopping!

Short cut

Handsome actor is considered one of the most talented stars in his home network.

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P210

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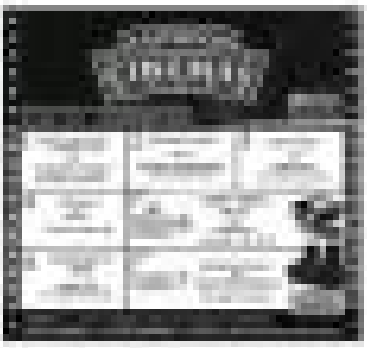
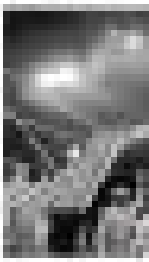
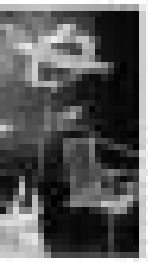
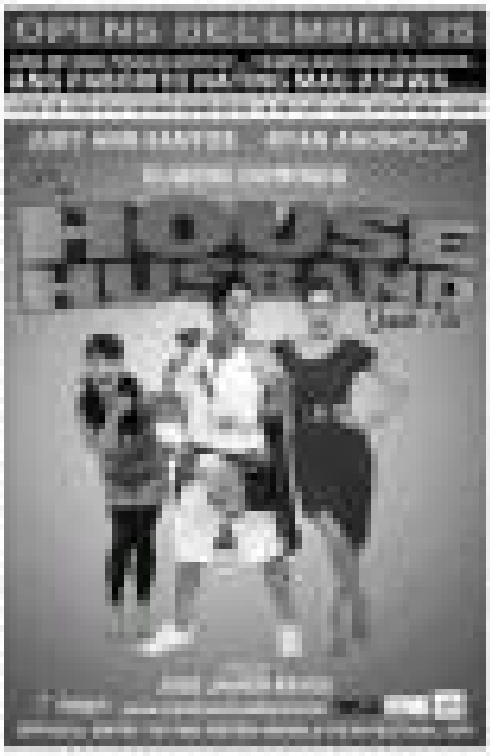


Grammy-winning ba
at Stuart Arancta on



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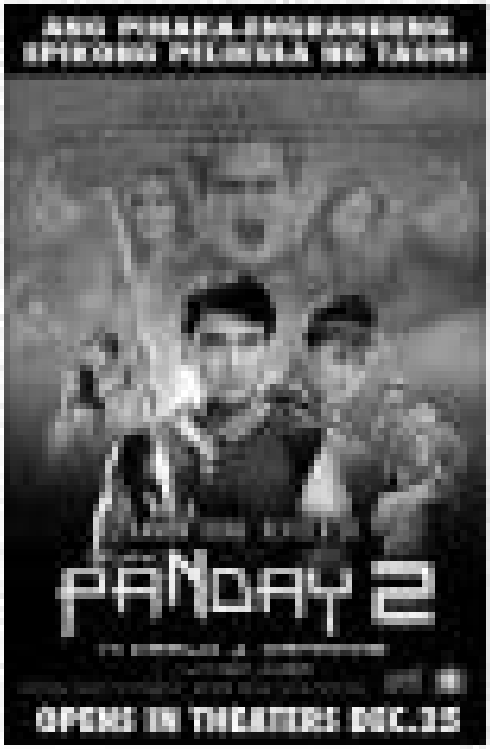
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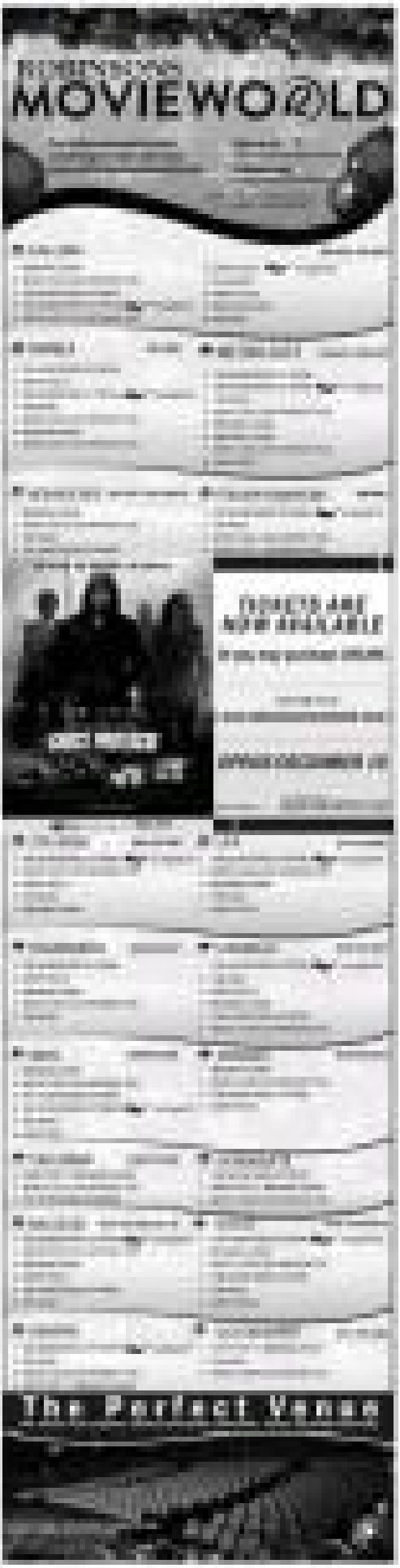
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Top exec goes ballistic

From page 01

R.I.M. de los Alas and Robin Padilla. No match for Piolo-KC hype.

However, he is having a tough time, career-wise, amid having grown impatient waiting for his big break, surrounded by the promises of Rich Gay. He gleaned a shorter route to fame and fortune. And so MA and BG are now an item.

Shortcomings

Jessica being slightly offensive is just one of the many shortcomings of Constitutional Celebrity, who's been struggling (Party Pearlers with emotional blackmail).

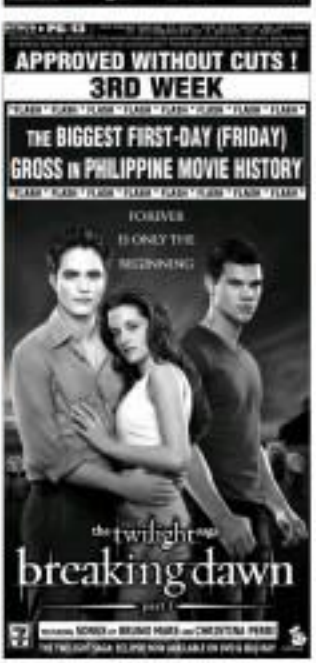
Turns out, CC is far from well-endowed, according to Gay Bar who once had a runway feud with the Blackmailer. Also, SS said, CC is all hairs and, ehem, confidence, (actor) comically.

SS claimed that when her boyfriend challenged CC to a brawl, "Sharon" chose to play hide-and-seek instead.

Top of the Tabloids

The top dawn his news in the (sapose tabloid Bandera (and why we are moved if we are moved):

- Wala singer-dancer sa BC-Piolo breakup. (Ah, sa'ano ... ?)
- (Hindi naman daw si wala singer-ang-dalehin ... BC-Piolo nagkabreakup dahil kay Marjorie Reyes? (Mali singer ka at Marlene?)
- (Kabadingan daw ni Piolo hindrakihakan ni Mega. (Sana si BC rin, hindrakihak na lang.)
- Si mga mayhawang chika lahats kay Piolo, Sharon-Ayala



GERALD Anderson and Sarah Geronimo [illegible] smell of success

[illegible] mysterio (Parang mga [illegible] pero hot si...)

- Pinoy Mi-grapes (Gay KC. Pikon enough.)
- Shout Evangelista, actress!, Daniel Matsunaga ayaw nang mag-coyote. (Party pooper!)
- DJ Mo...nanalot sa mga abogado ni Ethel. (Perfect timing! Ethel na's movie ... might as well list this.)
- Derek Ramsay group-hugsesin ng TV5 sa sexy-CBB. (Mukhang okay lang kay Angelica P. no.)
- Lorna Tolentino, nag-Irish daw bayan kay Alice Dixson. (Irish dito?)
- TJ Trinidad, nakakaraket ang bagongsyam. (At last!)
- Bitoy, ayaw nang makomfortable si Ai Ai. "Baka magkasala lang ako!" (Ang hir ng sabagat ng BC-Piolo-wannabe one?)
- Binating, RAB nagkrush muse daw! (Ang hirap talaga!)
- Kapuso Dancing-crowned movie-an Albert had-ing. (Photo.)
- Sheila Ginoozon daw si pasty in 10th-mans. (Fliest age ...)
- Bea Saldivar ay movie-yawa-ng-sempo hay Juleus. (Shhh! Sssh!)
- Carla Abellana, ayaw pasawi sa balwar. (Di ka ma'asawa?)
- TV countess Ida nina Bradley at Kris nawalkhana (para English daw si-ha. di-pina-pronounce ang 'l'-lipsin ha-grupo)
- Ano kaya ang mine-say ni Ate BC? Gavie Gonzaga-ates, nadalas daw-ang pang-aaway sa mga lasing. (Pihit-sadot C, ha-"cryad.")
- DJ Moving Eyek, may pinag-uusapak. (Baka girl ying-rema.)
- Gerald Anderson boy Asiatic-G-dinit-eye-ang bahay para sa-aktor? (Dahil kaya i-amado-ni tatay-ang movie?)

ENTERTAINMENT

Scorsese film tops US critics' best list

NEW YORK—The National Board of Review picked Martin Scorsese's 3D "Hugo" as this year's best film, an unusually kid-friendly choice ever to hold further intrigue to the Oscar front.

The group also picked Scorsese as best director for his whimsical film about an orphan who lives in a 1930s Paris train station. It's the director's first film in 3D, but one in which the adventure lends back in the early days of cinema and the wondrous films of French filmmaker George Melies.

It had been another movie nostalgic for the early days of movies—the silent film "The Artist"—that's been the award season's early leader. That film didn't receive any individual awards, but it was named among the group's top films of the year. The others were "The Descendants," "Drive," "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," "Moneyball" and (technically) "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2," "The Ides of March," "J. Edgar," "Tree of Life" and "Win Win."

Alexander Payne's "The Descendants," a weirdly humorous film about a middle-aged Hawaiian (George Clooney) balancing a new commitment to parenthood, earned the most awards with three. Best Actor went to Clooney, Best Supporting actress to the 20-year old Shailene Woodley (who plays the eldest daughter) and Best Adapted Screenplay to Payne, Nat Faxon and Jim Rash's script, taken from Kaui Hart Hemmings' novel.

Tilda Swinton was awarded Best Actress for her performance in Lynne Ramsey's drama about a school shooting in "We Need to Talk About Kevin." Best Supporting Actor went to the 82-year old Christopher Plummer for his performance as a dying man who awakens to full latent homosexuality in "Beginners."

Pedigree

The National Board of Review, a group of film historians, academic and moviemen founded in 1909, is one of the first notable groups to announce its picks for the year. Although it's usually the first group out of the gate, the New York Film Critics Circle entered elected this year, selecting "The Artist" on Tuesday as the year's Best Film.

The National Board of Review has some pedigree in picking films that have gone on to win Best Picture at the Oscars. Last year, it selected "The Social Network" as Best Film, while the academy chose "The King's Speech." More likely, this year's picks only reinforce the notion that the field remains refreshingly wide open ahead of the Academy Awards nominations on Jan. 24. AP

Childhood 'isolation' inspired his passion

MARTIN Scorsese: "I had a very protective child-hood; was ill or ill."

LOS ANGELES—Martin Scorsese recently revealed a new project and talked about how being isolated as an asthmatic child nurtured his passion for films.

The filmmaker arrived lugging a leather portfolio for this interview, looking like a college professor. Make that a film school professor because, as usual, Martin was a thoroughly engaging interview subject, regaling an avid auditorium from his encyclopedic film knowledge. He appeared tired, perhaps from the mad scramble to finish "Hugo" on time. Still, he often broke into his usual bounty laughter.

One of the greatest directors of our time disclosed that among his own projects is "The Invention of Hugo," his movie adaptation of the best-selling

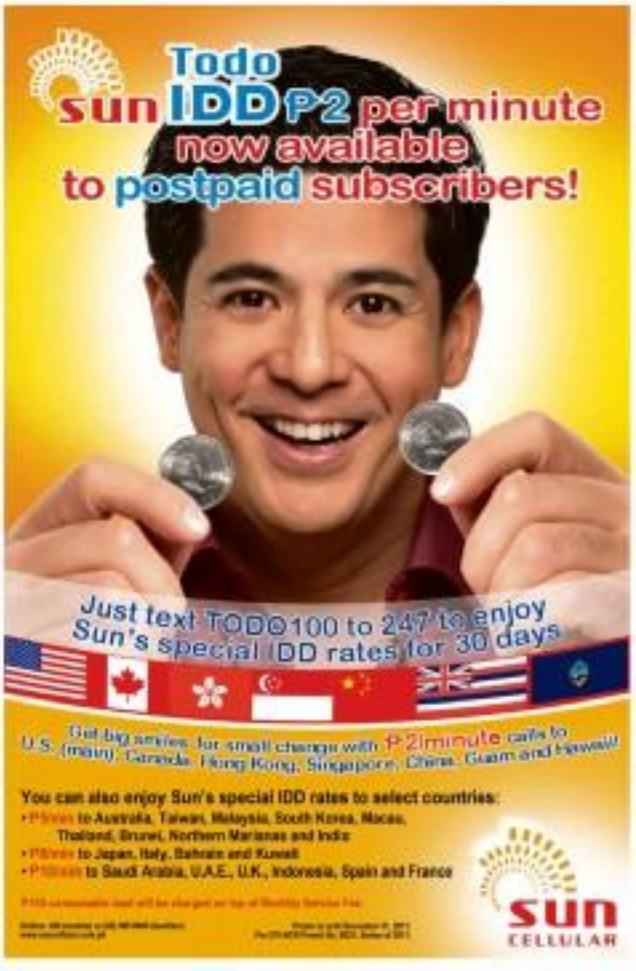
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rubert V. Nepales

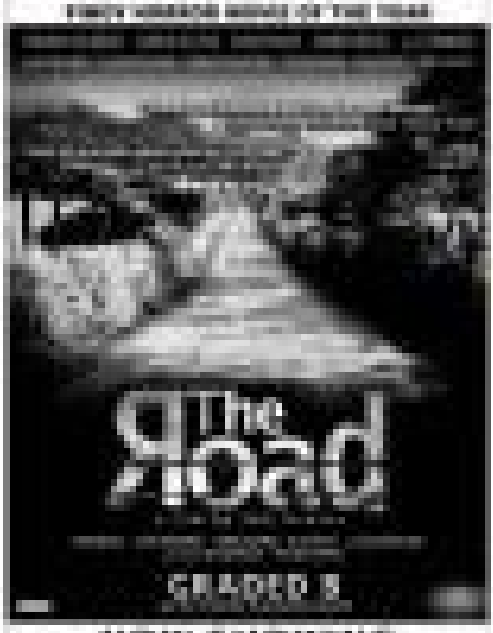
crime thriller by Norwegian author Jo Nesbø. "The Snowman" is part of Jo's Nordic noirs featuring an Oslo detective investigating a serial killer.

"I'm developing 'The Snowman,'" he confessed. "In the first meetings we had, we talked about keeping the Norwegian names and the setting. But we haven't gone any further because I had to deliver this other film ('Hugo'). We're going to be meeting one or two writers in January. Then we

CONTINUED ON E2



Childhood 'isolation' inspired his passion



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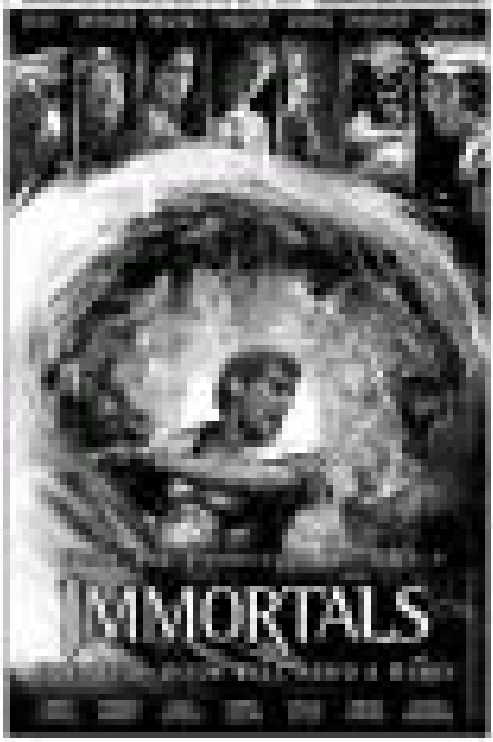

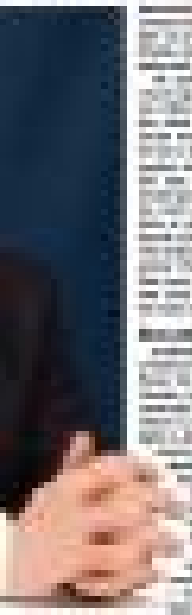

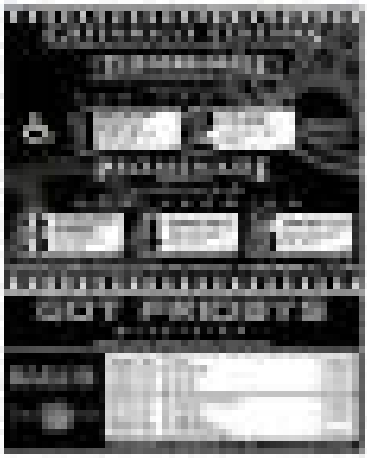
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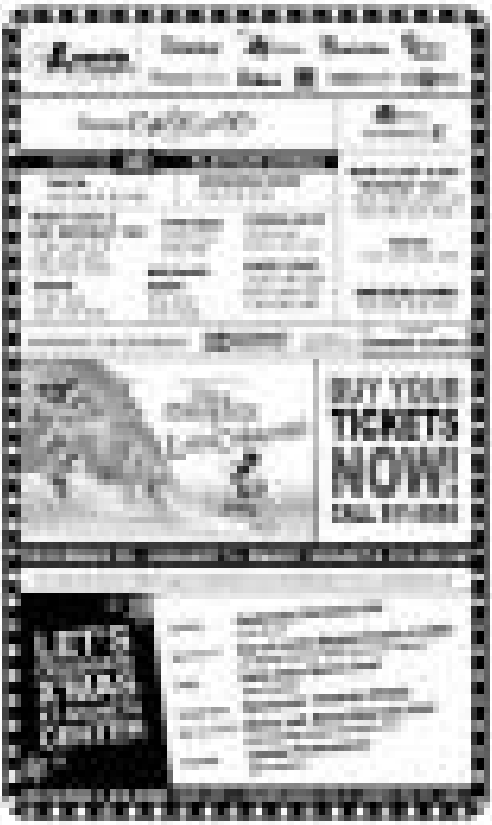
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CINEMA

ASA BUTTERFIELD plays Hugo in Martin Scorsese's 3D adventure movie based on Brian Selznick's bestseller "The Invention of Hugo Cabret."

Childhood 'isolation' . . .

From page P3

father. He began to actually work on the films."

Martin stressed though that he didn't intend "Hugo" to be a homage to his youth. "I was compelled by the story of the young boy," he said. "I was very excited to attempt to do something that would resemble a George Melies work. But ultimately, when I read Brian's book, the story was so strong but the illustrations were also compelling. America has since very much embraced him. Why don't you make a film that your kids could see one day? I said, 'Yeah, maybe one day I'll do that.'"

"And this book was given to me as there was all this convergence. I was making 'Shutter Island.' And all these things were starting to converge. My daughter was beginning to understand more. I said, 'It would be nice to make a film with children as the leads.' It was just a happy coincidence that the story that Graham gave me dealt with these two elements of the little boy who was isolated and the cinema."

Most influential

Asked which film had the most influence on him, Martin answered, "There are, of course, a few of them but the one that reached it very close than I could possibly make a film was 'Ox the Wanderlust' because of the people that it showed. Before that, the films, including the Italian ones, had a realism quality to them. But with 'Ox the Wanderlust,' I really felt that the characters on the screen were exactly my friends, family, uncles and cousins. 'Ox the Wanderlust' was the breakthrough that made me feel that people I knew could be up on the screen or the life that I was experiencing then was also valid to be on the screen."

With his love for cinema, film preservation remains one of Martin's newest causes. The founder of The Film Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving motion picture history said: "In the past years we've tried to find filmmakers, artists and actors who have been forgotten, and at times, we tried to restore their work, a lot with the help of the Hollywood

> 'When I read the Hugo book, how this boy is isolated in the train station that was a dangerous world, I was drawn in by it'

Foreign Press. The work should be preserved for generations. I do know people who are gone, all their work gone or have committed suicide. We read the stories all the time. It's a pity that many of them never knew how much we loved their work. If you don't have to love the person... it's the work, it's a sense."

Georges Melies, who is portrayed compellingly by Ben Kingsley, went into bankruptcy in 1913. Most of his 500 films were melted and used to make boot heels. He was honored so because a toy salesman. "They did find Melies in the Gare Montparnasse in 1928," Martin said. "They were walking by a toy store and they went over to him. They asked, 'Are you Georges Melies?' He said, 'Yes, I am.' He was given the Legion d'honneur. He was celebrated and his films started to be restored. I think there were only a few that were available. But now there are over 350."

Film preservation

Martin explained that he keeps pushing for preserving and conserving films because "we don't know what's going to happen now with digital. The digital issues are such a problem. They're a downhill but there are problems that come with it. We know that raster has unlimited to still the best way. But here 60 to 100 years."

As far as his own films are concerned, Martin said he'll never know if they'll be remembered. "I'm very lucky now in to looking 40 years later and people are talking about them. I know a lot of people were young never knowing it."

We'll say it now: Mr. Scorsese, you'll be remembered by many generations for your marvelous films.

We asked him if, God forbid, all his films were to be destroyed and he can only save one, which movie would that be?

"That's a tough one," he replied. "The safest answer I should give is the documentary that I made of my mother (Catherine) and father called 'Italianamerican.' That's only an hour. That's it for me. I am my 'Mean Streets' but that's a selfish way of looking at it for me. Maybe other people would prefer 'Raging Bull' but I prefer the documentary because that's where I came from. 'Raging Bull' is very personal but it's part of another world. So, no, it's the family film because it's very kind of family."

E-mail the columnist at renapadre_53685@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/rapadrejabon.

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- Line Engineer (Mechs)
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- Base Maintenance Senior Manager
- Cabin, Systems and Structures Engineer

Dec. 7, Wednesday
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- Supervisor
- Credit Analyst
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JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

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PROGRAM OFFICER (Position Code: PO)

PO shall be responsible in performing a full range of assignment (such as identification, formulation, monitoring and administration of JICA ODA programs/projects) under the supervision of JICA Philippines office. PO will be working with Japanese representatives in the JICA Philippines office as well as other Filipino staff to liaise with JICA HQ, development partners and Philippine Government counterparts.

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- Proficient computer skills with sound knowledge of common word processing, spreadsheets and graphics software used in JICA (such as Excel, Word, Powerpoint &/or Filemaker, Lotus Notes, etc.)

* Evaluation of applicants shall not be limited to the abovementioned qualifications. JICA may consider other relevant work criteria in recruitment of said positions.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an agency of the Government of Japan responsible for implementing technical cooperation, grant aid and yen loan programs of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). For more information, refer to JICA's homepage: http://www.jica.go.jp/english/ and http://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/index.html.

The recruitment will be handled by the Takasawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy Inc (TTTIC). All applicants must indicate the position code in the subject line and submit their Curriculum Vitae including two work-related references on or before 11 December 2011 to TTTIC at Unit-A 3rd Floor, Abrogate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City or e-mail to tttic@pldtdsl.net.

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- Resume

Transcript of Records/ Latest DLC/ diploma

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Closing date: 05 December 2011

The successful applicants will be required to start on 03 January 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR

[illegible] Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines) has an immediate vacancy for the position of Procurement Supervisor. The successful candidate will serve as the Procurement Supervisor of the Executive Office of the Government Division and is responsible for all USAID administrative procurement for acquisition of goods and services in support of USAID/Philippines, Regional Development Mission Office (RDMO) activities, as well as USAID Mongolia and Japan and other Regional Missions or as all be required.

The successful candidate must have the following Education Criteria:

- Education (20%) – College degree preferably in business administration or accounting.
- Work Experience (20%) – At least four (4) to six years of progressively responsible purchasing, contracting and/or supply management experience is required. Preference will be given to candidates experience in U.S. Government purchasing.
- Job Knowledge (20%) – Must have a thorough knowledge and relative understanding of the principles, practices and techniques of procurement, contracting and supply management. The incumbent must follow, and effectively apply current federal procurement (FAR/AIDAR) policies and procedures relating to the assigned functional duties.
- Skills and Abilities (20%) – Must possess strong analytical ability, negotiating skills, strong interpersonal and persuasive skills, customer relations, and computer literacy (MS).
- Communication Skills (10%) – An excellent command of English (both written and oral) is essential.

Based on the successful candidate's cover letters, a maximum annual salary of PhP1,440,000.00 is offered. This compensation package includes medical and dental benefits, health and life insurance, annual leave, and 13th month pay.

USAID reserves the right to reject any and all applicants. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

This position will be filled subject to the availability of funds.

Applications letter and comprehensive resume must be received no later than December 20, 2011 at:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box [illegible]
[illegible], Manila or via e-mail at [illegible]

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- Male, at least 5'6" tall
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- Can speak and understand English
- Willing to be assigned in Condotels, Davao or to have a residence within the area

Application may call at (02) 843-4751 09178363263 look for Miss Rose or may e-mail your application letters to:

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mission alliance

[illegible] Mission Alliance Philippines
[illegible] Quezon City, Metro Manila

SOMESCAR MISSION ALLIANCE INC. INC. is a [illegible] mission organization focused on children and youth, utilizing holistic development approaches to serve 5,000 children in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, and Batangas. We are in need of qualified, experienced and committed personnel to be part of our team who will assist in carrying out operational requirements and enabling skills for the transformation of our community partners in planning and implementation of their own development agendas. We are looking for people with expertise in the areas of Health Education and Community Organization Building and Development. If you think your qualifications match the requirements of any of the following positions, then we are inviting you to join us and have the challenge of transforming people's lives to make a difference.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING ASSOCIATE

Position Summary:
Provide technical assistance in the areas of planning, monitoring and evaluation of organization's systems.

Job Functions/Responsibilities:
- Policy development on areas cutting themes
- Internal Audit, Systems Monitoring
- Documentations of the New Project

Job Requirements:
- Candidate must be a graduate of any social science courses preferably in [illegible] Development Management
- Work experience in social development work, working with a team, working with children and churches preferred
- Skills in knowledge research, project management (PME), technical writing, good communication, written and oral, English and Filipino, use of Lotus/Frame Approach (LFA)
- Ability to work with minimal supervision

Interested applicants may email their letter of application and resume to:

screening@mma.org.ph

BIR raises taxable real estate thresholds, heeds industry calls

PROPERTY OWNERS AND REAL ESTATE developers can now enjoy added relief from value-added taxes (VAT) as the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) boosts the [illegible] thresholds. [illegible] which increases the amount of threshold amounts for VAT-exempt transactions, as follows: (1) From P1 million to P1,919,500 for lots only; and (2) From P1.5M to P2,199,200 for houses and lots.

Adjusted lots, even if covered by separate titles and tax declarations, can be counted together when sold to a singular buyer. Lots will be VAT-exempt as long as the aggregate sales does not exceed the P1,919,500 limit.

The issue of residential units for a monthly rent of Php12,000 and below shall likewise be VAT free. Residential units leased over P12,000 monthly is also exempt if the aggregate for the year does not exceed P1,919,500.

In Jan. 6, 2011, the Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) submitted a recommendation to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) for the adjustment of price ceilings on socialized and [illegible] And one is exempt from the payment of the 12% VAT. The proposal was subsequently endorsed by HUDCC chairman Vice President Jejomar C. Binay to a letter addressed to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares.

Pursuant to Section 4.109-1 (b) (ii) of BIR Revenue Regulation 16-2005, the present value could be adjusted every three (3) years using inflation or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as basis.

According to CREBA, inflationary pressures and the continued price increases of construction materials, wages, equipment and labor have made it [illegible] for the real estate and housing industry. HSDG and BSP data indicate that for the same period CPI has at times increased by as much as 50%, while housing and power CPI increased by 50%.

According to administration Chairman Charlie A. V. Cruzpedz, the increase presents a huge opportunity for more [illegible] Filipinos to own a home and for the property industry to develop more units which will unleash the widely-recognized economic multiplier effects of housing as a catalyst for national growth and development.

"By creating an environment favourable and conducive to real estate business and investments, we expect the sector to build more units to address the nation's growing housing requirements, generate more jobs for our people, and spur economic activities that will translate at least 66 allied industries afloat as efforts and services are inevitably required for each house that is built. Add to this the enormous benefits to government and the people through revenues generated from taxes," Cruzpedz concluded.

The new regulations will take effect starting Jan. 1, 2012.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

Cebu Daily News is the regional paper of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the ONLY independent newspaper in Cebu.

CIRCULATION MANAGER

- A college graduate
- With at least two (2) years experience in distribution or telemarketing (at least one (1) year in CEBU) as sales executive
- Can work under pressure and must be able to follow under deadline
- Computer literate
- Has creativity in developing new sales strategies and has strong analytical skills
- Has strong interpersonal skills, has high degree of integrity and can work in minimal supervision
- Has excellent communication skills, both oral & written
- Preferably a resident of Cebu and willing to travel to other parts of the Visayas region

Send your application letter, resume with recent picture and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS INC. / CEBU DAILY NEWS
Mezzanine Floor Human Resources
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000
e-mail to: allhrsec@inquirer.com.ph

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- Preferably college graduate if any 4 year course
- At least 4-5 years experience as a trade rule in a Garment Manufacturing firm
- Must have high leadership skills and people oriented
- Knowledge of Lean Management System is an advantage
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Computer Literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint)

PURCHASING MANAGER

- Male/Female, 35-45 years old
- Preferably college graduate if any 4 year course
- At least 4-5 years experience as a trade rule in a Garment Manufacturing firm
- With good communication skills
- Must have high leadership skills and people oriented
- Knowledge of Lean Management System is an advantage
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Computer Literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint)

SEWING MECHANIC HEAD

- Male, 30-40 years old
- Preferably college graduate if any 4 year course
- At least 4-5 years experience as a trade rule in a Garment Manufacturing firm
- Competent to troubleshoot and fixing of the different sewing machines
- Competent in trouble shooting machinery problems
- Able to make machine any according to production plan
- Good communication with machines and parts suppliers
- Able to manage budget for machines parts are supplies
- Knowledge of Lean Management System is an advantage
- Computer Literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint) is advantage

3D PATTERN MAKER

- Male/Female, 25 - 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course
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HR Division
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8th St. Mactan Economic Zone Phase I,
Lapu-Lapu City,
Cebu, Philippines, 6015

Tel No.: (32) 231-1111 local 2000

E-mail us at
jobs@yuenthai.com

The Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)

is in search of

LAWYERS
(CONTRACTUAL)

The Bureau of International Trade Relations of the DTI is the primary agency responsible for all matters pertaining to foreign trade relations, whether bilateral, regional, or multilateral, especially market access and other market access related matters.

The Bureau's functions include, among others:

- The formulation of positions and strategies for trade negotiations, consultations, and conferences;
- Coordination with other departments and agencies of the Philippine government with a view to assure consistency in government's positions on trade negotiations and other activities pertaining to foreign trade relations;
- Consultations with industry groups and provision of technical information and advice on trade negotiations and foreign trade relations;
- Identification of tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting products of export interest to the Philippines;
- Negotiations for liberalizing tariff and non-tariff barriers under a bilateral, regional, multilateral fora; and
- Evaluation and submission of recommendations on existing and proposed commercial policies of the Philippines.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Four (4) years in positions involving supervisory and management experience
- Twenty-four (24) hours of training in management and supervision
- Member in good standing of the Philippine Bar
- Undergraduate degree in economics, business administration or trade-related disciplines from reputable schools an advantage
- At least three (3) years relevant experience on trade policy and trade-related matters

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Leadership disposition
- Good interpersonal skills
- Results-driven
- Strong commitment to public service
- With untarnished integrity
- Thrives on continuous learning

Qualified candidates will go through the following assessment steps. Each selection step is a hurdle stage:

1. Pre-Screening
2. Technical Examination
3. Panel Interview
4. Psychological Examination
5. Final Interview

Please submit the following:

1. Comprehensive resumé
2. One (1) ID picture
3. Transcript of Records (Undergraduate and/or Graduate Degree)
4. Copy of Bar Rating/Results

on or before 16 December 2011

to:
Department of Trade and Industry
Human Resource Development and Personnel Services
361 San Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or
email to: hrdd@dti.gov.ph

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

as UNODC FORMER POSTS

UNDP Philippines is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following post (details are available in our website: http://www.undp.org.ph/jobs/):

1. NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER (NPO) FOR TERRORISM PREVENTION, SC-11

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, including terrorism. It is the guardian of universal legal instruments against drugs and crime. In addressing the legal, criminal justice and rule of law aspects of counter-terrorism, it operates in all regions through an extensive network of field offices.

In East and Southeast Asia, UNODC is promoting an "End-to-End Counter-Terrorism Partnership on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism" under the framework of UNODC's Regional Programme.

The main work components in the elaboration and implementation of country-specific programmes of cooperation, in close consultation with the Government, civil society and other stakeholders, aimed at ensuring effective legal framework, implementation capacity and international cooperation in counter-terrorism.

General Description of Responsibility:

Under the overall supervision of the UNODC/TRLO/AP Counter-Terrorism Senior Programme Manager and the Head Legal Advisor of the Regional Programme Office for the Philippines in UNODC/TRLO/AP, the National Programme Officer provides specialized substantive expertise and manages organizational and coordination functions for developing, delivering and monitoring the Philippines country programmes of activities, ensuring high quality, efficiency and timeliness of work. S/he also contributes to the development and implementation of other country programmes in the Southeast Asian region.

The National Programme Officer works under the local supervision guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator and in close collaboration with the programme, project and administrative staff in UNDP's Regional Centre in Bangkok and the Pacific and HQ, as well as UNDP country offices in Manila and Hanoi as required, to provide and obtain substantive expertise, achieve programme coordination and undertake supervision of activities.

Overall, the National Programme Officer serves as a primary point of reference and fulfils various functions for the UNODC in CT and broadly for other UNODC mandate areas.

Summary of Key Functions:

Provision of valuable and secure strong contribution:

- Provision of specialized substantive expertise for formulation and implementation of the Philippines country programme of activities under the regional CT programme and other regional initiatives
- Planning, design, delivery and facilitation of the Philippines country programme of activities and other regional CT programme activities
- Liaison, consultation, support and coordination with the Philippines national authorities and relevant counterparts on matters in CT and crime-related matters
- Representation of UNODC in corporate events and initiatives and delivery of specialized UNODC contributions
- Management of coordination and administrative tasks for the CT programme and contributions for the management of CT programmes and overall UNODC engagement in the Philippines
- Coordination for resource mobilization, partnership building and programme advocacy

Qualifications:

EDUCATION: A Master's degree in law, preferably in international law or criminal law, or equivalent academic training.

EXPERIENCE: At least 5 years relevant professional work experience at the national or international level.

SKILLS: Good knowledge of broad based criminal justice issues and expertise in one or more thematic or functional areas of technical justice.

LANGUAGES: Excellent knowledge in English with good writing and presentation skills are a requirement.

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience. International applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website: http://www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and sent to: **thomas.kamm@undp.org OR**, Human Resources, United Nations Development Programme, 6/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226 Royal Mail, MM-6017-PO.

Indicate the "**Qualifications Post Title and Vacancy No.**" on or before **12 December 2011**. Kindly note that only shortlisted P.11 forms will be reviewed. UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Female candidates are encouraged to apply. Short-listed candidates.

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3:00-3:30 PM: My Overseas Volunteer Experience: Insights from Returned Volunteers
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- With extensive experience in handling employee

C. MARKETING OFFICER
- Graduate of any business course preferably Marketing
- Adept in promotion, advertising, and product strategizing

For Item A,B,C
- Articulate and proficient both in oral and written English and Filipino language
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Interested applicants are advised to send their Letter of Application, Comprehensive Resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

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- Has strong interpersonal skills, has high degree of integrity and can build and maintain good relationships.
- Preferably female.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.

Send your application letter, resumé with recent picture and a photocopy of transcript of records to:

Ms. Myrje Estares
Email address: **admin@abec.org / myrjeabec@yahoo.com**

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unicef

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT (Education II (P4-ABD))
(3M Level: General Services 4, Manila)

ALLEN ATTENDS THE US PEACE CORPS / US AID 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Nadin and Cel Gonzales of The One Aklan Place Foundation attended the 50th anniversary of the US Peace Corps and USAID at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Sofitel. From left to right: Hon. OIWB Eric Cornelsen "Binky" Salonga, Cel Gonzales, Nadin Gonzales III, The Madonna of Hope is an Aeta-Chi-nese Psychiatric Center that deals with Anxiety, Depression, Bi-Polar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Substance Abuse problems. For inquiries, TADH is located at Brgy. Hannah, Olongapo, Laguna. (63) 584-4301 or (63) 949-1417 ; (2017) 333-1838 ; (044) 801-2297.

11ST PARBB (PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BOARD) NATIONAL CONVENTION

Shown during the Coronation Night on Oct. 6-8, 2011, at Waterfront Hotel Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City from left are: First Runner-Up, Flores Louisa Charlene G. (King of CEREB, Miss Popular Lady of PAREB 2011, Dr. Miss Gay Sa-ol (CBCB); and, Second Runner-Up, Lovely Abigail B. Zarmsino of PAREB. More than 100 delegates and members all over the Philippines witness the event and convention.

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INVITATION TO BID

For "**Re-IB Lobo Service Contractor, Plumbing, Electrical and Carpentry, which is scheduled on the December of Provincial Tourism Site, Brgy. Lobo, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental (Re-IB No. 11-08-2011)**"

1. The Provincial Boards Committee (PBC) of the Province of Negros Oriental, through the Provincial Government Operating Fund (PGOF) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱3,800,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Lobo Service Contractor, Plumbing, Electrical and Carpentry Activities for the site on the Provincial Tourism Site, Brgy. Lobo, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental (Re-IB No. 11-08-2011).

2. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental now invites bids for the Re-IB Lobo Service Contractor, Plumbing, Electrical and Carpentry Activities for the site on the Provincial Tourism Site, Brgy. Lobo, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental (Re-IB No. 11-08-2011). Completion of the Works is required within Three Hundred Sixty (360) Calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment is given in the Bid Data Sheet.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Government Operating Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00).

7. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental will hold the Re-IB Conference on December 15, 2011 (10:00 A.M.) at the Provincial Boards Committee Conference Room, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City. Bids must be delivered on or before December 16, 2011 (10:00 A.M.). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on December 16, 2011 (10:00 A.M.). Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Provincial Boards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Lepo de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

		Approved Budget Cost
1.	Medical Supplies	₱ 3,750,000.00
2.	Laboratory Supplies	900,750.00
3.	Dermatological Supplies	1,810,500.00
4.	Drugs and Medicines	8,100,000.00
5.	Surgical Items / Implant	3,000,000.00
6.	Drug Supplies	200,000.00
7.	Equipment:	
	A. Body Washing S/T 100 cc/L	Lot/S 3,000,000.00 Lot
	B. Hand Sanitizer Alcohol Solution	Lot/S 1,000,000.00 Lot
	C. Tube Feeding	Lot/S 1,800,000.00 Lot

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office, upon payment of non-refundable fee in the Cashier's Office. For details, please contact telephone numbers 735-7344; 734-9331 loc. 115.

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-bid Conference	December 6, 2011; 2:00 p.m.	Venue: 2nd Floor Conference Room
Bid Opening	December 14, 2011; 2:00 p.m.	

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, bid opening, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The DOHMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DOHMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **RUTH A. CASTRO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

La Union Electric Cooperative, Inc. – (LUELCO)
City Site, Dist. Aringay, La Union
Tel Nos. (072) 123-0126, 714-0126 Fax No. (072) 714-0123

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The LA UNION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LUELCO) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting interested CONTRACTORS to apply for eligibility and bid for the following:

- SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS -

Lot I - XXXXXXXXXX (Quad. 2000 Lines)
Lot II - XXXXXXXXXX (Quad. 2000 Lines)
- 1) XXXXXXXXXX
- 2) XXXXXXXXXX
- 3) XXXXXXXXXX

(See the Complete Technical Specifications and Requirements)

- APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT -

Lot I - Php 10,700,000.00
Lot II - Php 1,000,000.00

Prospective bidders may obtain the list of eligibility requirements, bidding documents and other bidding details from BAC Secretariat during **November 28, 2011** during office hours from Monday to Friday, **8:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM** with the following non-refundable payment fees:

- BID DOCUMENT FEES -

Lot I - Php 5,000.00
Lot II - Php 3,000.00

Pre-bidding conference shall be attended by all interested bidders on **December 5, 2011, 10:00 A.M.** at LUELCO Function Hall, Brgy. Biday, Aringay, La Union. Prospective proponents are required to submit their duly accomplished Statement of Eligibility and Bid Form (Bidding Documents) on or before **Opening of Bids** set on or **December 19, 2011**, Friday at 1:30 o'clock afternoon.

Opening of the eligibility requirements will be on or before December 19, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. Bidders are also required to submit to the BAC Technical and Financial proposals in separate envelopes properly sealed and labeled with an opening on the date of bidding in the presence of all participating bidders.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid evaluation and awards shall be governed by the provisions of the rules policy in Procurement through Public Bidding.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the bid to any participant upon reasonable grounds where the award of the bid will not be advantageous to the LUELCO and that the LUELCO shall not be liable for whatever expenses the bidder may incur in the preparation of this bid.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ANTONIO M. PERALTA, PEE**
BAC Chairman

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Like Jaime Francis M. Rabaquilla

How can I be seen as ready now for promotion?

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Jane G. Santamaria

I graduated magna cum laude with an engineering degree from a good university and was immediately recruited as management trainee by a multinational company. Together with several others, we went through graduates of their respective schools, we underwent rigorous training and transformation. I've been working in an assistant manager on a department head in my plant for almost three years now and I'm wondering how I am really doing and when will I finally be promoted. Most of my batchmates have been promoted or left unsuspected positions and seem to capitalize level. My immediate boss keeps telling me to be patient because I'll have my promotion "soon". The big problem is when is this "soon"? It seemed I'm stuck now. I'm an frustrated to the point of being demotivated and disappointed. What shall I do?

Mr. When

Your impatience for promotion is brought about by the promotion of your batchmates to higher positions in the organization and your perception that your boss is not doing anything to help you in the regard.

The one who can help you no less if you are truly ready for promotion is your immediate superior. Do you sense in any of your career discussions is a possible successor to your boss? Have what other department in the plan do you want to work? As management is intact, you had no opportunities to switch in the real one functional area is very important, not just in your field of specialization as you would know which one suits but your skills, aptitudes and career interests.

Second, as a result of which get to meet superiors, you can tell if your have addressed the areas for improvement cited by your immediate supervisor. Have you followed up on those with this boss's blessing, implemented such to your according to his/her standards?

Third, how is your supervisor assessing your performance as an incumbent in the position you're in? Are you not yet ready to move on to the next level or the plum assignment?

Fourth, by the time you get to the next level, you will be expected to have developed a manager's perspective, which is not limited to your own department but the entire organization. Are you already thinking like a manager? Are you already acting like one?

Fifth, how do you see yourself in the next three years? Are you interested in opportunities that will require you to relocate to other areas of the country or abroad? Are you willing to take on a challenging assignment that will require you to relocate to other areas of the country or abroad?

Sixth, are you willing to take on a challenging assignment that will require you to relocate to other areas of the country or abroad?

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Twentieth, are you willing to take on a challenging assignment that will require you to relocate to other areas of the country or abroad?

My hero is a blogger; Who's your hero?

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilio

Last Tuesday was Bonifacio Day. Bayani Bonifacio Day is to Anti-Poverty Day what Christmas is to Easter. But nothing prevents us from celebrating heroism anytime of the year. In fact, I suggest we should.

Kamuas Martinez

My late father was a veteran and hero. He died blind, mute and weak in debilitating diseases in another country. Fifty years after the end of the Korean war, the South Korean President arose and died with profuse thanks for his participation in preserving democracy. He must have been a hero in the Korean.

At the time of the Korean war, South Koreans per capita income was $65, compared to the Philippines' $700. Of course, we were No. 2 in Asia after World War II. In 2005, our per capita income is... (wait for it)... $1,747. Today, I guess our per capita income is roughly $1,800, while South Korea's is $16,000.

Last November 25, Ana Kiam Bonifacio-Neeb (a teacher) prepare "Baby Hyundai is heavily in the shipping. Although it is best known in the Philippines for its motor vehicles, Hyundai's overseas interests are ranged by with the love in the world. Samsung is taking on Apple's iPad and iPhone. Avon fashion entrepreneur Jacqui has won several awards in the past few years, but on the other hand, have not graduated from making panty, polishing knickers of the boy, and the rest is... never mind. One country is not willing to listen and realize, but some of our best minds are making contacts for foreign companies, frustrated that most of them who prepare in this country are those with the right successes or connections. What to be excited of kindly plays a central role in natural or professional careers, then is little incentive to move for excellence and genuine self-improvement."

Heroes

Among this title, I wonder to those who I was young and silly that I could be my own children of God's childhood a of heroes with so personal genius. Then, Michael Jackson helped changed the definition of television. In his song, "In Our Small Way," where he sang:

"Maybe you and
I can help, make great things
We may not change the world
in our day
But we will change things
some things today
in our small way."

Because of Jackson's people who do humanitarian things. Because, our world does not have enough room for greatness. That's why there are lots of them. And my dad was one of them.

I admire Helen Keller since she said, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my short duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble." Helen Keller is a mentally and only by the mighty doers of to heroes, but also by the appearance of the tiny pushes of forth human works."

Tiny pushes

I first got an email from Jay Michael Alfonseca in the early 2000 or 2001. He was attaching from our job to involve in the Unpaid the world seemingly broking the something meaningful.

Jay worked on six of his idealism and his ambition to help our mission in a big way. Later, he told me he got involved with Alex Lacson and helped him during the latter's senatorial campaign and in setting up some foundations. Jay was an incessant blogger. I learned that he was born in Southern City where he finished high school, then completed his college education in Ateneo de Davao.

Jay was a reader, his favorite author would have been Jose but outside what was a very younger

already working the Malaya newspaper where he was only four. This man have been the coming prime and has done for his Trust then, he developed a manage banner for knowledge, and he blogged and founded a lot. While working at Malaya, he met Margarita Rose Mendiola (miss, lovely dresses, media presentations and other professionals who loved the pen epicurean that Mendiola is not very kind. In fact, there are only 40 people in the world that she only classified as hotspots.

When PNoy became President in 2010, my friend Jesse Gilbert became Secretary of the Presidential Communication Operations Office and Jay joined the PCOO as Head of his office. In October 2010, Jay joined the IBA social bloggers' summit in Zamboanga City (he met his online friends and several volunteers. One volunteer was Jay's wife, Jessica, a nurse taking care of school in Liloan Leyte, a nearby village where 200 Muslim families live in have no toilet over the sea. They have to commute at low tide, so their kids would miss their laboratories and work. Jay laboratories and forms and books in sunlight plastic wrappers.

Jay thought to himself, "Is Mendiola, kids would skip school to swim. These kids would swim to go to school."

Bothersome thought

The thought bothered Jay enough to take a hotel room. He used his social network to create awareness of the plight of the area. He sought the attention of marketing guru Isaiah Go, and Aman Lim of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, just to name a few.

Using crowdsourcing (a term distilled by Jeff Howe and Mark Robinson), Jay and his team of volunteers launched the first toilets first, and started a "Bayang Pupuri" (Save Water) awareness in the school started.

When fellow Bantayan Islander Ishida Ba-ang heard about the project, she took me over to convince Jay on behalf of the Bantayan kids. As coordinated with a television station to air the story, which started donations to pour in for the Bantayan Island kids. The first cheque of 15,000 by Bonifacio Ilustre "Isaac" for the day for one week and helped raise funds for structures (one bank costs roughly P7,000).

Jay, Jessica, Jay Alfonseca, Aaron Lim and Dr. Ay have gone individual and entrepreneurial. Jay's Isaac child, the Yellow Boat Project, was featured in local television shows, and on CNN. Al Jazeera and many Grand Prize. If you want to help, check out The Philippine Fund for Little Kids (PFLK) at www.facebook.com/philippinefundforlittlekids.

Jay says, "People person is not just about raising funders. It is about talking to anyone and everyone in your career department to a possible successor to your boss? Have what other department in the plan do you want to work? As management is intact, you had no opportunities to switch in the real one functional area is very important, not just in your field of specialization as you would know which one suits but your skills, aptitudes and career interests.

Second, as a result of which get to meet superiors, you can tell if your have addressed the areas for improvement cited by your immediate supervisor. Have you followed up on those with this boss's blessing, implemented such to your according to his/her standards?

Third, how is your supervisor assessing your performance as an incumbent in the position you're in? Are you not yet ready to move on to the next level or the plum assignment?

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Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, He will prepare your way."

Messenger

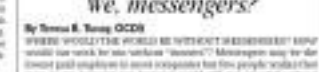
By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillo, SDB, DD

THE WORD "MESSENGER" AND WHAT IT COULD MEAN TO US is what October day mentions in the seven-school week of Sept. 8. Image to mind the person or thing which our carefully chosen and wants to transmit his message or anything valuable to him to some body or communicate to the correct time and that of work, I would to run on the thought that we and our work could be the persons and things used carefully chosen to proclaim the message of love and salvation in the whole world and has entrusted to us. Do we want those something to realize that we are to God's mind and that value we are could be be vehicle or means for His desire and efforts to save us.

Before perhaps the short videos video are specifically proclaiming the "Word of God" is nothing people is worship and praise Him, the simple ordinary workers or those who are to be called secular professionals may not realize that they are also messengers. Some could be like messengers of God. It would not be so evident for a mere cleaner a sacristan, a cook or even as an accountant or a secretary or in relate to the thought that they are sent by God to "prepare the way" for people to find salvation His presence. The energy and interest required by any kind of work could so absorb the worker's mind and most of the being that he is prevented from seeing God to see Him. Moreover, the work could so absorb the worker's mind that the surroundings and the world at large, as it is being observed by many seemingly, seems to be unaware of God or simply indifferent to Him. Yet, the essential truth and reality is that God continues to love His creatures even though He is being dismissed or rating absent-minded by them.

God continues to become Him not only to Jesus Christ, but to us of our workers who believe in His only begotten Son so that everyone will find the way to real happiness with Him.

Every worker, I believe, is qualified to apply and become a good messenger of God!



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

We, messengers?

By Teresa B. Tuzon OCDS

WHERE WOULD THE WORLD BE WITHOUT MESSENGERS? How would our work be one without "messers"? Messengers may be the lowest paid employees in most companies but they people would find even in the busiest ages business could still get completed without them. Many find this boring and monotonous occupation, but in all years, when he begins he would simply take the public transportation to accomplish his tasks, later on his boss put him a motorcycle, and he would be issued a new one every three or four years. If you ask him why he has stuck to his job for so long he will tell you, "I am valuable in this company. When I do, my president rewards me For example, he is very good at finding out what is on the minds and from the thoughts of others. He is the "Messenger" in short, he is aware of and happy about his role in the workplace.

In reality, we are all messengers to one another in the workplace and it is a exercise we've had before know and accept if we want to be valuable to one co-workers. We might ask, If we are all messengers-fulfillment of messages—then what is creating the messages? The answer comes from The One who sent of love with us to be neighbors. In this predominantly Christian country that One would be Christ, and Christians being the messengers are the channels of His love to one's are to the workplace, this love translates to order, productivity, efficiency, honesty, among other things. Messengers, like conduit pipes, must be kept clean for the true messages to come through. Her name's Doing through clean. That it is our workplace there is love, honesty, appreciation or kindness, you can be sure it's because are the characteris we engaged. It is not easy to remain clean if most of our co-workers what to be known envy to ask for help from God who loves us. The only thing asked of us is time to accept that God gives code, reasons to Him, and we will take care of the rest.

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Thank you for everything!
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Purificacion C. Valera QUISUMBING

1 February 1934 to 1 December 2011

Former Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights
Past Chairperson of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights

Beloved spouse of Leonardo Quisumbing (†, retired),
Mother of Jay and Coco

Beloved daughter of the late Candido and
Benita Valera of Aparri, Cagayan

Beloved sister of the late
Maria Clara C. Valera Ravina

Beloved aunt of
(†) Roberto, Ernesto, Jr., (†) Victor,
Anna Marie & Maria Theresa

Her remains lie in state at the Felicidad Chapel,
Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.,
Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Cremation on Friday, 9 December 2011
Daily Masses at 6:30 p.m.

Judge Antonio Padua Paredes

Died peacefully
on December 2, 2011
at the age of 87.

joined his loving wife
Leonides Timbol Paredes (†)

His children Marie Au, Ludette, Amelia, Carlos, and Manuel; brothers & sisters Estrella Lwang (†), Dolores Leviste (†), Amelia Ko, Esther Kalaw (†), Anna, Celia Sule (†), Teresita Vargas (†), Letizia Paredes; son-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral procession to follow immediately to Columbal Garden Memorial Park, Brgy. Ilaya, Padre Garcia, Batangas, after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Capilla del Señor.

Your love for Justice in your lifetime is
crowned only by your love of Mercy.

For obituary with a picture: can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEM

FREE CKBT DESIGN

Our dearly beloved

ATTY. SENEN MEDINA TIONGCO

of Santa Rosa, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator
on December 02, 2011 at the age of 83.

His loving wife LALLY; *children,* NOYEE & ARNOLD, JOJO, NOEL & SWEET; *grandchildren,* Luis, Alyssa & Mateo, *brothers, sisters and in-laws,* would like to request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Phoenix Memorial Chapels, Santa Rosa, Laguna. Interments will be on December 07, 2011 at Santa Rosa Catholic Cemetery.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Geronimo (Gerry) J. Manzano

Realtor – WWII Veteran

Peacefully joined our Creator
on December 2, 2011 at the age of 85.

His bereaved wife Rosie, children Lou-Boyd, Soc-Vic, and Tonette-Yussuf; grandchildren – Tina, Katrina, Carla, Yj, Raymund, Paula and Angelo, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church – Pentacore Chapel C – Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 6, 2011 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani Taguig City. Misa Mamla after the 9:00 AM mass at the Christ the King Church.

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(in front of National Center)
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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

THE ACADEMY OF HOPE VISITS CATANDUANES

Rodin and Cel Gonzales of The Academy of Hope visited his Most Rev. Manolo A. De Los Santos Bishop of Virac to promote Rigel's advocacy in promoting Mental Health. The Academy of Hope is an Asian Chronic Psychiatric Center that deals with Anxiety, Depression, Bi-Polar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Substance Abuse problems. For inquiries, TAGM is located at Brgy. Hamarik, Calauan, Laguna. (02) 889-4281 or (02) 889-3401 / (0917) 555-3030 / (049) 563-2297. Please visit our website at www.academyofhope.com.ph

NREA's year-end, X'mas meet Dec. 6 at New World Hotel

J. V. Manalad

K. C. Antonio

THE NEW ERA, Multi-Purpose Association, Inc. (NREA), including the members of the 17 chapters nationwide will hold its Year-end Assembly and Christmas celebration on Dec. 6, starting 6 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of New World Hotel in Makati Avenue, Makati City.

This was announced by Association chairman and founder Jose V. Manalad who said that the celebration-cum-assembly is a way of thanking all their contributions and achievements for helping alleviate the country's housing shortage and being more economic in choosing the affordable budgets" Manalad added.

The Year-end Assembly will also serve as NREA's Christmas Party. In anticipation of the celebration of the Nativity and the birth of the Christian Saviour.

In the same spirit of Christmas, special awards will be given to NREA members and guests who will come in the most colorful Christmas outfit for being the best in dancing, singing, and group performance during the program.

Also on an Appreciation Tradition, NREA considers who have rendered honor and outstanding services to the organization will be recognized.

It will also honor the New NREA Officers for the year 2012 who will be inducted during the affair, chaired and organized by NREA VP Ruth E. Alonso, also NAPOCOR VP and COO.

Everyone is encouraged to bring gifts which will be raffled off to all those in attendance. For particulars, please call tels. 910-3682 and 913-4482.

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AUSTRALIA NEWLY REGISTERED NURSES WITH 2 MONTHS OR MORE WORK EXPERIENCE

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Cell: 0916 4897 / 09 824 7512
Phone: 895 6139 / 8421
Email: vmc@vmc.ph.com

WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the knowledge of National Book Store Inc., that certain unscrupulous individuals or entities claiming fraudulently to be the owners of the parcel of land located at Aurora Blvd., cor., EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City, have offered to sell the same through the Internet and other media of advertisement.

The parcel of land is owned by and registered in the name of National Book Store Inc., under Transfer Certificate of Title No. 300861 of the Registry of Deeds of Quezon City.

Notice is hereby given that the above stated property of National Book Store is not for sale and it has not authorized any person or entity to sell, dispose of or otherwise administer the property.

The public is warned against dealing with persons or entities claiming to represent National Book Store Inc., with regard to the property in question.

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All Concrete Building
Double-Height 1/F Multipurpose Area with Elevated Stage
Wrap-Around 2/F Balcony Overlooking 1/F. Granted Rooftech, Skylight

Call or Text
Leo 0915 619 2933

BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PROPERTY FOR SALE

35th Floor Enterprise Center Tower I
Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas

Floor Area - 1,238.39 sq.m.

Offers accompanied by a deposit equivalent to 5% of the offer price in Manager's Check, should be addressed to the "EMBASSY OF SINGAPORE MANILA", on or before 15 January 2012.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Michael Cuachon at (02) 856-9922 loc. 106/107 or via email at michael_cuachon@singapore.sg.gp

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on SABH and "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:

Item No.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	Building in Commercial Condo. Unit identified as Unit 5-A covered by CCT No. 104537	9th Floor Corporate Condo., Benavidez St. corner Rockwell St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	
2.	4-Storey commercial/office condo unit identified as unit 4-A covered by CCT No. 104618	4th Floor Corporate Condo., Benavidez St. corner Rockwell St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	
3.	448.10 sq.m. vacant lot identified as Lot 1 covered by TCT No. 16-2009000144 (subdivision)	Magsaysay St. corner Malaspina Ave., Olongapo City	
4.	1,126 sq.m. vacant land covered by TCT No. T-21-1777	Sitio Lucia St. Poblacion, Brgy. San Miguel, Antipolo City	
5.	Two (2) adjacent parcels of land with an area of 10,000sqm. and 20,000 sqm. or a total of 30,000 sq. meters, more or less, TCT No. T-000000 (vacant)	Brgy. Bacao (formerly San Isidro), Bacoor, Cavite	
6.	2,811 Sq.m. vacant lot identified as Lot 1 covered by TCT No. 16-2010011446	Magsaysay St., Baguio City	

Detailed bids together with two 1X1 pict bond will be received by the Special Assets Department (SAD), 20th Floor, LandBank Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati on December 15, 2011 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 p.m. The bid deposit shall be in the form of Cashier's or Manager's Check issued by any commercial bank (except the bank of the Philippine for bid bond in amount of P10,000.00. Cash payment for bid bond will not be accepted. Bidders must submit their bids in sealed envelopes bearing the following labels: LBP Land Disposition after deposit of a Post-Dated check dated on or before the opening date. The Official Receipt shall be included in the sealed envelope.

In case of CLOSELY CONTESTED TOP BIDS (difference between the second highest bid price and the top bid price is 10% or the highest bid), the opening of the sealed envelopes containing bids will be conducted on the same day at which time only the top bidders will be allowed to participate. The minimum bid increment is P10,000.00.

The bid documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. Juan Luna cor. Delfan) starting December 5, 2011.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 13, 2011 - 2:00 p.m. at the 20th Floor Conference Room, LandBank Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Manila.

Prospective bidders are required to inspect the above-listed properties on and up the date and time of the bid before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. No warranty express or implied shall be given or made by the Bank with respect to the properties offered for sale. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next succeeding business day at the same time and place specified above. For this matter, the Bank shall publish and post a notice thereof to announce the new date, time and place of the public bidding.

For more information, please call (632) 405-7240, 405-7241, 405-7242 and 405-7243 or visit the Special Assets Department (SAD) at the 20th Floor, LandBank Plaza.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of LANDBANK shall be final and binding.

HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Member: Department of Finance

NOTICE

I, BENITA T. SALVERSON with residence at [illegible] hereby give notice that I am no longer connected with the company as Sales Executive of [illegible] Any transactions made/entered into by me in behalf of the company after this date are no longer valid and shall not be honored by the company.

BENITA T. SALVERSON
Affiant

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that:

SHIRLEY M. PADILLA

is no longer connected with our company. Any transactions made/entered into between Shirley M. Padilla and any other party after this date are no longer valid and shall not be honored by the Company.

THE MANAGEMENT
FUSCON SHIPMANAGEMENT INC

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARCHITECTS

CONSTRUCTION / DESIGN

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

UPKEEP MAINT.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUMS

BIRMINGHAM
HOUSES & LOTS FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUMS

FORT CONDO

MEMORIAL LOT

HOUSE & LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

HOUSE

FOR SHARE

CONDOMINIUMS

HOUSE & LOT

COMMERCIAL

APARTMENT

ROOM & BOARD

LOT

BUSINESS RENTAL

LOAN & MORTGAGE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PETS

COMPUTERS

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX
LUXURY WATCHES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

P50,000/MONTH

WATER STATION
EASY TO OWN

BUSINESS FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOSS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOSS

JOB
every Sunday

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011

People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head: Jong Arcadio

High Street South: Alveo Land unveils BGC's cultural district

(From left) Ayala Land, Inc. president and chief executive officer Bernard Vincent O. Dy; Bonifacio Global City Mayor Lani Cayetano; Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. chairman and chief executive officer Tomas Alfonso Co; Alveo Land president Jaime Ascalon; Taguig City Mayor Sigfrido "Freddie" Tinga; Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay; Ayala Land chairman and chief executive officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala; Ayala Land president and chief operating officer Antonino T. Aquino; Ayala Land chief finance officer Delfin L. Lazaro; Ayala Land chief strategy officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala; Ayala Land chief human resources officer Solomon M. Hermosura; Ayala Land chief commercial officer Arthur R. Tan; Ayala Land chief corporate services officer Ma. Antonia Anna Bautista; Ayala Land chief risk officer Cesar V. Cruz; Ayala Land chief legal officer Ernesto D. Ordoñez; Ayala Land chief audit executive Rizalina G. Mantaring; Ayala Land chief sustainability officer Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr.; Ayala Land chief technology officer Augusto Dalmacio O. Bengzon; Ayala Land chief marketing officer Ma. Victoria Garchitorena; Ayala Land chief human resources officer Ma. Cristina C. Arbo; Ayala Land chief finance officer Jaime Alfonso E. Ongpin; Ayala Land chief finance officer Cezar P. Consing; Ayala Land chief finance officer Rizalina G. Mantaring; Ayala Land chief finance officer Delfin L. Lazaro; Ayala Land chief finance officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

REPUBLIC NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PAMBANSANG LUNGSOD NG PUTRAJAYA (LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. IBA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the Procurement of CONTROL (Electronic)

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the CY 2011 General Appropriations Act (GAA) R.A. No. 10147, intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PHP 15,100,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of CONTROL (Electronic) and invites bids for the supply of the said items.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) now invites eligible bidders for the delivery of:

A. **One (01) unit CONTROL (Electronic) complete with the following minimum specifications:**

- CONTROL (Electronic)
- 4 CPU
- Notebook Image (RTL 8187L or TI) (Included)
- 1.3M multimedia cam
- Combination multimedia/card reading
- 250GB single pin model
- 12GB Triple Channel DDR3 (1333MHz) capacity
- 16 speed DVD drives/ combined power possible
- 16 speed (Writable) Optical drive may or must provided that
- Hard disk drive capacity: 1 Tera (TB) (minimum)
- Direct X 9 and internally cooled or replacement cooler
- System includes the following:
  - Free lifetime service guarantee with available service center/ Nationwide
  - Free 24hrs consultation
  - Free installation with fast / clean
  - Free delivery and installation within Metro Manila
  - Free training to end-user

Bidding will conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding shall be restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat, G/F, Bldg. 8, Department of Health, Sta. Lucas Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on December 05 – 20, 2011 from the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 12 December 2011, 10:00 am at COBAC Conference Room G/F Bldg. 2, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 am, 26 December 2011. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 9:00 am, 26 December 2011 at COBAC Conference Room G/F Bldg 2, Department of Health, Sta. Lucas Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

COBAC Secretariat
Department of Health
GF Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel Nos. 651-7800 local 1020 or 1021, 1080 to 82
Facsimile No.: 741-9713; 740-6639

(Sgd.) ARMENIO T. CANCIO, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI – December 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
Regional Office No. III
Maria de Capistrano, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF the Angeles and Floridablanca Diversion Canal (Lot 2) of the PAMPANGA RIVER PROJECT

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

1. The Bid Figure for the Proposed Rehabilitation of the Angeles and Floridablanca Diversion Canal (Lot 2) of the Pampanga River Project is now available and invites eligible contractors to participate in the bidding for the Proposed Rehabilitation of the Angeles and Floridablanca Diversion Canal (Lot 2) of the Pampanga River Project.
2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Project Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat or Project Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00).
4. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Project Office, Barangay Cutcut, Angeles City on December 13, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 19, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. Bidding shall be conducted following the "Open and Competitive Bidding" procedures.
6. Bid opening shall be on December 19, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Conference Room #1 Floor, 1.Mc building, East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Quezon City where bidder open only to interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Submission and opening of eligibility requirements and bids shall be on January 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at 3rd Floor, Conference Room, JRA Building, Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan.
8. The NIA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

EDELWINA N. SALAZAR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
2/3rd, East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Quezon City
(632) 927-14-10 to 20 loc. 6121
(632) 925-41-35 (Telefax)
Mobile No. 0919-06-73

ERNEST ROMAN C. LEYESTENA
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee
Procurement of Goods, Supplies & Materials
East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Mobile Nos. 0919-5-73-867; Commercial: 927-14-10

(PDI – December 04, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
San Jose Compound
Km. 1, National Highway, Sorsogon City
Sta. Cruz, Sta. (056) 211-4321

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY CUBIC METER CONCRETE RESERVOIR FOR PALOMA WATER DISTRICT

1. The Metropolitan Water District through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P3,600,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of Three Hundred Cubic Meter Concrete Reservoir at Paloma Water District under Lot Code No. 5-12. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Metropolitan Water District now invites bids for the Construction of Three Hundred Cubic Meter Concrete Reservoir at Paloma Water District. Completion of the Works is required within **Fifty-Nine (59) calendar days**. Bidders should have completed, within **five (5) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Metropolitan Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **December 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at Conference Room #1 Floor, 1.Mc building, East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Quezon City where bidder open only to interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 17, 2011 (Saturday) at 1:00 p.m. at Barangay Water District Office, Barangay Dungon Proper, Sorsogon del Norte. Pre-Conference shall be held at the same venue and time session indicated in Clause 10.

   Attn: Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
   Chairman, BAC Secretariat
   Barangay Water District
   Barangay Dungon del Norte
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of Accredited representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

   Attn: Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
   Chairman, BAC Secretariat
   Barangay Water District
   Barangay Dungon del Norte
9. The Barangay Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

    Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
    Chairman, BAC Secretariat
    Barangay Water District
    Barangay Dungon del Norte

(Sgd.) Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Barangay Water District
Barangay Dungon del Norte

(PDI – December 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
San Jose Compound
Km. 1, National Highway, Sorsogon City
Sta. Cruz, Sta. (056) 211-4321

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY CUBIC METER CONCRETE RESERVOIR FOR BALOGO WATER DISTRICT

1. The Metropolitan Water District through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,600,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of One Hundred Fifty Cubic Meter Concrete Reservoir at Balogo Water District under Lot Code No. 5-11. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Barangay Water District now invites bids for the Construction of One Hundred Fifty Cubic Meter Concrete Reservoir at Balogo Water District. Completion of the Works is required within **Fifty-Five (55) calendar days**. Bidders should have completed, within **five (5) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Barangay Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **December 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at Conference Room #1 Floor, 1.Mc building, East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Quezon City where bidder open only to interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 17, 2011 (Saturday) at 1:00 p.m. at Barangay Water District Office, Barangay Dungon Proper, Sorsogon del Norte. Pre-Conference shall be held at the same venue and time session indicated in Clause 10.

   Attn: Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
   Chairman, BAC Secretariat
   Barangay Water District
   Barangay Dungon del Norte
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of Accredited representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

   Attn: Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
   Chairman, BAC Secretariat
   Barangay Water District
   Barangay Dungon del Norte
9. The Barangay Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

    Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
    Chairman, BAC Secretariat
    Barangay Water District
    Barangay Dungon del Norte

(Sgd.) Engr. Rodolfo Pacheco
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Barangay Water District
Barangay Dungon del Norte

(PDI – December 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

for the Procurement, Supply, Design and Installation of Fire Connections – Re-Bid
(s No. 2011-12-351)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of 2011, intends to apply the sum of Five Million Philippine Pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement, Supply, Design and Installation of Fire Connections – Re-Bid. (RFB No. 2011-12-351). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The DOH now invites bids for the procurement of the above-mentioned package. Delivery of the Goods is required within sixty (60) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within ten (10) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat, G/F, Bldg. 8, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on December 05 – 20, 2011 from the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00).

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 12 December 2011, 10:00 am at COBAC Conference Room G/F Bldg. 2, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 am, 26 December 2011. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

   Bid opening shall be on 9:00 am, 26 December 2011 at COBAC Conference Room G/F Bldg 2, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

   COBAC Secretariat
   Department of Health
   GF Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Tel Nos. 651-7800 local 1020 or 1021, 1080 to 82
   Facsimile No.: 741-9713; 740-6639

   (Sgd.) ARMENIO T. CANCIO, MD, MPH, CESO II
   Assistant Secretary of Health
   COBAC Chairperson

(PDI – December 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Ampitheater Bldg. D. Maso Plaza, Calamba City
Laguna (049) 545-0168

December 04, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Duties
1.	**SANREX ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES, INC.** Phase I, Langkaan Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Tsuchiya Nagahiro / Japanese	Vice Pres. and President
2.	**NIPRO PHILIPPINES, INC.** PCD, Phase I, Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Yasuaki Motonaga / Japanese	Manager
3.	**PHILIPPINE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INC.** 1101 Makati, Cavite	Mr. Takayuki Ikeda / Japanese	Vice President for Sales and Marketing
4.	**PHILIPPINE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INC.** 1101 Makati, Cavite	Mr. Yukio Endo / Japanese	Consultant
5.	**SEIKO INFOTECH PHILS. INC.** Lot 1-20 Mjo. Hermosa Street, Phase I, Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Ito Yasuhiro / Japanese	Production Manager
6.	**OMRON ELECTRONICS MFG. PHILS. INC.** PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Ito Yasuhiro / Japanese	Quality Control Manager
7.	**SOLANDT SYSTEMS & INTEGRATION PHILS. CORP.** EPZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Ryuichi Lee / Chinese	Training Coordinator
8.	**TOSHIBA MACHINE, INC. PHILS.** Cavite EPZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kaoru Takeuchi / Japanese	Assistant General Manager of Production Engineering Department
9.	**MAGSAYSAY MARITIME CORPORATION** 1F Pil. Seamen's Bldg., Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Mr. Shimizu Shin Hiromi / Japanese	Sr. Port Mgr.

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application(s), please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ROLANDO G. HERTEZ, MR., CESO III
Regional Director

To avail of free job referrals, placement, and employment assistance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on at www.pesonet.ph.

(PDI – December 04, 2011)

MAY TRABAHO DITO

Get more exposure for your ad.

Advertise in INQUIRER Libre log-on to INT-MKTG loc. 514

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3x3 Sign	3x3 cm	3 columns	3 x 3 cm	3 x 3 cm
4x3 Sign	4x3 cm	4 columns	4 x 3 cm	4 x 3 cm
	5x3 cm			
	6x3 cm			
	7x3 cm			
8x3 Sign	8x3 cm			
	9x3 cm			
	10x3 cm			
	11x3 cm			
	12x3 cm			

UNIVERSITY HOTEL
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The University Hotel, through its Bids Awards and Disposal Committee (BADC), invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the following project.

Name of Project	: Internal Cleaning of Air-conditioning Equipment
No. of Units	: 60 – Window Type 9 – Package Type (7.5 HP) 6 – Floor Mounted 5 Tuner

Subject	Semi-Annual	Quarterly
Window Type	Php 280.00/unit	Php 240.00/unit
Split/Floor Type	Php 640.00/unit	Php 590.00/unit

Last day for Submission : December 23, 2011 | 5:00 PM at the Supply & Property Office

For inquiries on the Terms of Reference and scope of work, please contact Ms. Rosalie P. Ayag at telephone number 924-0761, 920-1502 and 435-1518.

(Sgd.) MARTIN S. ARESGADO
Resident Manager

(PDI – Nov. 4, 2011)

"Everyone has a role to play in building both our business and our reputation."

Join us!

Senior Brand Manager
- 5-8 years relevant experience
- Strong background in brand management, market/consumer segmentation and new brand development gained from an FMCG company

Trade Marketing Manager
- 5-8 years experience in Marketing and Sales from an FMCG company
- Strong background in trade & financial planning, brand program development, direct marketing (including consumer relationship marketing), trade marketing and program effectiveness measurement

Field Operations Manager
(North Luzon, Mindanao)
- 10 years experience in sales and distribution management

Field Audit Supervisor
- 2-4 years experience in field sales/operations and audit as a supervisor gained from an FMCG company

Channel Planning Supervisor
- 2-4 years relevant experience in an FMCG company as a supervisor
- Knowledgeable in direct marketing, trade marketing
- Strong background in project management

Quality Assurance Supervisor
- At least 5 years experience handling Quality Assurance in an FMCG/manufacturing set-up
- Preferably a graduate of an Engineering or Chemistry course

JT International (Philippines) Inc.
http://www.jti.com/careers_home/careers_working

BE PART OF THE "BIG 1 ICE CREAM NG BAYAN"

...Unilever RFR Ice Cream Inc. is in need of talents to fulfill its mission of bringing quality & the thrill of ice cream...

GSL Transportation Supervisor (NCR)
- Responsible for the supervision of the 10 GSL Van Transportation activities. Ensures operations are executed as planned, to deliver delivery performance (includes customer service, transport and 3rd party service providers). Serve as process expert in SAP

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Administration, Science or equivalent
- Min. 3 yrs experience in Warehousing & Distribution operations with 1 yr. supervisory development / MM experience is an advantage
- Proven strong leadership, coaching, teambuilding, decision making and people orientation skills
- Analytical, with an investigative inquiry and Customer Service oriented

DEPOT SUPERVISORS (Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Zamboanga)
- Supervise daily operation of assigned Distribution Center including warehousing, customer service, transportation and Depot Management

Qualifications:
- Graduate degree in Engineering, Science or Economics
- Minimum 3 years experience in Warehousing and Distribution operations (preferably from FMCG) with 1 year supervisory experience
- Strong leadership, teambuilding, and people orientation skills
- Analytical, with an investigative inquiry and Customer Service oriented attitude
- Knowledge in SAP is an advantage

SALES PLANNERS (NCR)
- Performs daily route planning & delivery & sales scheduling. Maintains and analyzes truck load computation to ensure. Monitor truckers performance & compliance to GSL store requirements

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering or equivalent
- Knowledgeable in Warehousing and Distribution operations (preferably from FMCG)
- Analytical and can do management reports
- Customer Service oriented attitude

SHIPPING COORDINATOR (NCR)
- Schedules daily truck planning, travel logging and monitoring of performance. Ensures availability of trucks and truck van services. Analyzes of performance and logistics coordination

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering or equivalent
- Knowledgeable in Warehousing and Distribution operations (preferably from FMCG)
- Analytical, with an investigative inquiry and Customer Service oriented
- Customer Service oriented attitude

DEPOT CLERKS (Mega, Batangas, Bataan)
- Handles warehousing, facilities and transfer transactions of the depot including inventory control, updating of masterfiles and documents

Qualifications:
- College graduate, Computer literate and customer service oriented
- Knowledgeable in Inventory Control and updating
- Can work under pressure and meeting deadlines and can multi-task

For complete application, please send your updated resume to [illegible] Put the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line. Only those who are qualified will be contacted. Unilever is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS INC FIRM 2011 REQUIREMENTS

Graphic Artist
Someone with a real talent for illustration, both by hand and computer-aided. He is expected to produce eye-more cut and paste layouts, but genuinely innovative or creative ren-ditions. Knowledge in web design and 3D rendering software a plus.

IT Jr. Web Administrator
Computer proficient, especially SQL, can manage/maintain website updating; creative and self motivated; must have knowledge in PC System, servers database and networks, knowledgeable in web design, presentation and office softwares and can design wallpapers and graphics for online ads.

Associate Marketing Counselors
(also known as Service Account Manager)
To do account servicing work, graduate of any marketing or business course, adept in marketing communications, planning and execution, computer literacy in Microsoft Windows program, proficient in oral and written communications and willing to go on local travel.

General Qualifications:
MUST, preferably not over 30 years of age, graduate of a relevant course, has very good communications skills, computer literate, organized, productive attitude, hard working responsible, honest and professional behavior, honest, can work with minimum supervision, team player, pleasing & flexible personality, willing to go on local travel and preferably can drive.

Send your application to:
Executive Decisions Integrated Marketing Communications Corp.
(EDIMARC)
Unit 7-A, Roma Regency Building, 717 Aurora cor. Roxas Boulevard, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 410-1111 / 410-1114, 410-1115

SAITO KINZOKU INC.
Km. 38 Quirino Highway Bgy. Sto. Cristo,
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

SOLVENT DISTILLATION OPERATOR

Requirements:
- At least three (3) years experience in the related field is required for this position
- Applicant must be willing to work in Bulacan
- Must be able to speak and write in English
- At least High School Graduate

Interested candidates meeting the above-criteria please call our office numbers (02)894-4692 or (044)8159467 or (02)2945401 or (02)2915771. Look for Ms. Jeudie or Ms. Rein

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National Electrification Administration
"For the Widespread Electrification, Speedy Industrialization and Overall Development Agenda"

Invited Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER III
for
AURORA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Baler, Aurora

Qualifications:
- 35-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, Civil), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Western Aurora

Starting Salary : P 45,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 4th floor, NEA Building, M.H. Del Pilar, Diliman, Quezon City and Barrio II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BAELCO) II, Reserva, Baler. Deadline for submission of application form is on 11 December 2011.

(Sgd.) EDITA A. BUENO
Administrator

CEBU DAILY NEWS

Cebu Daily News is a multi-awarded English-language general interest newspaper based in Cebu City.
The community paper belongs to the INQUIRER Group and by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and circulates in the Visayas.

COPY EDITOR

We are looking for accountable individual in a career in journalism
- High written English proficiency
- Integrity and ethical conduct
- Ability to work under pressure of daily deadlines
- At least two years experience in a news organization
- An appetite for current events and issues
- Critical thinking skills, initiative and creativity
- Wide reading habits
- Available to work in the evening
- Layout and page design skills preferred
- College degree

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
- Senior level editor with a track record of executive or administrative skills
- High level of integrity
- Maturity, sound judgment and good interpersonal skills

Interested applicants may send their resumes to
alfuerte@inquirerpublications.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Christmas Made Fabulous by Debenhams

It's a fabulous CHRISTMAS... at

Fabulous Gifts for Her

Fabulous Gifts for Him

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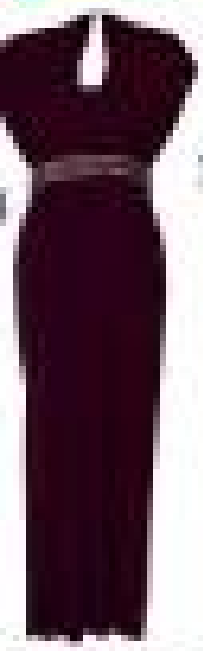

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Fabulous Gifts for the Home

1 **Heart** wreath 2 **Star by Julien Macdonald** chunky jewel frames 3 **Shoe** decoration 4 **Ballerina** decoration 5 **Photo** stocking 6 **Star by Julien Macdonald** diamante votives 7 **Handbag** decoration 8 **Betty Jackson Black** boxed scented votives 9 **Bauble** set

Buy 1 Get 1 at Half Price on Christmas tree decorations*

Nov. 26, 2011 - Jan. 2, 2012

Fabulous Gifts for the Kids

1 **J by Jasper Conran** boys cardigan 2 **Bluezoo** novelty cat earmuffs 3 **J by Jasper Conran** girls spot jacquard dress 4 **J by Jasper Conran** check hooded shirt 5 **Bluezoo** jersey woven spot dress 6 **Bluezoo** moose applique jumper 7 **J by Jasper Conran** tank, shirt and trouser set 8 **Bluezoo** penguin sweat 9 **Bluezoo** fairy dress

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Ground Floor, Alabang Mall Tel. No. (632) 521 1855